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THE Country GUIDE

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Dec/49

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Under The Peace Tower

WE'RE just making horses' haunches of ourselves here in Ottawa over security. We're spy happy.

What blew the lid was when the government blurted out, rather unhappily, that it did not trust its own National Film Board, and that it was having its secret photographs taken by an outside photographing concern.

To me, this whole security business stinks. I'll tell you why. It makes every little snooper, every little guy who loves to stick his nose into your business, an important person instead of the louse he really is. It puts a premium on minding the other guy's business. It puts us on first base on our way to being a police state.

Don't get me wrong. We cannot afford to have spies, and spies we seem to have. They say. But I do not for one minute think we can get the big spies by any security we can normally devise. You hear about the ancient practice of setting a sprat to catch a whale. We're setting whales to catch sprats.

SPIES don't walk around with neon lights, which flash on and off with the word spy. Nor do spies look like spies. On the distaff side, they are neither curvaceous Mata Haris nor frumpish, short-haired females. Spies operate indirectly, making their plays like three carom shots. In this kind of three cushion billiards, the ball bounces all round before it finally hits the carom. Similarly, the spy fires his shots, and they go all over before they hit the target.

What spies there are, are doubtless hidden safely behind safe "fronts." For instance, a man whose name was Szczecz, if there were such a name, would be much more open to suspicion than somebody who went to church regularly and rejoiced in a name like Francois Xavier Trudeau. Yet obviously, a good spy would have a flawless front, would be seen in a church, would be known as a devout Canadian, and indeed, would be so average in his life that he would not be suspected. In other words, the real spies, the truly effective ones, would be so well concealed that we would not get them. What we mainly would round up would be the small fry.

On the other hand, we cannot be wide open like a barn door on this; we cannot openly invite the spy to walk in and look over our files. We have to have a check, and a good check. For this purpose, we have a secret panel of civil servants, we have also the Mounted Police, and we doubtless have agencies beautifully concealed, and placed at strategic points.

But the more suspicious we get, the more we become a police state. People turn you in for spite. People, in fits of hysteria, smear you. Lady Aberdeen, in her book, "We Twa," tells of going home during the first war, across the ocean. She said one man was whispered to her as a German spy. It was heightened when the British officers came aboard at Southampton and got

him. He was a spy all right; except he was a British spy.

I heard a man who should know better, happily now dead, who said that a chap caught in one set of circumstances should be shot.

Actually, there had been a small riot in some prison camp. National defence was at fault, and the government of the day was trying to cover up. What the fellow had done was to do what any newspaperman would do. But soldiers, who had a veiled hostility toward the press, raised a big ruckus over it. In the end, the chap paid a fine, and nobody can remember this wartime "sensation" today. But what a crime, if this man had been shot, as was suggested by this bombastic Ottawa attorney!

Today we are making spies of everybody here in Ottawa. Everybody is suspicious of everybody else. Everybody is watching everybody. The worst of it is that we are forgetting all about liberty and freedom and Canadian democracy.

How can we make fun of Russia and its police state? In what position are we to make fun of the Soviet satellites, and finally, why did our brave boys spill their blood, if only to create a police state out of Canada? For make no mistake about it, Canada is not a bit better than Russia if we, in the name of democracy, do the same sort of thing Russia does in the name of Communism. If we do the same things, what is the difference between a Canadian and a Comrade? If we cannot trust each other, what better are we here than they are there? Sure as sure can be, we are backing into a police state.

The Opposition here has a real job to do. The spy-happy government is degenerating into a lot of scaredy cats. If the Progressive-Conservatives want to justify their existence, this is the time. If the C.C.F. mean what they say when they say they represent the common people, let them start yelling.



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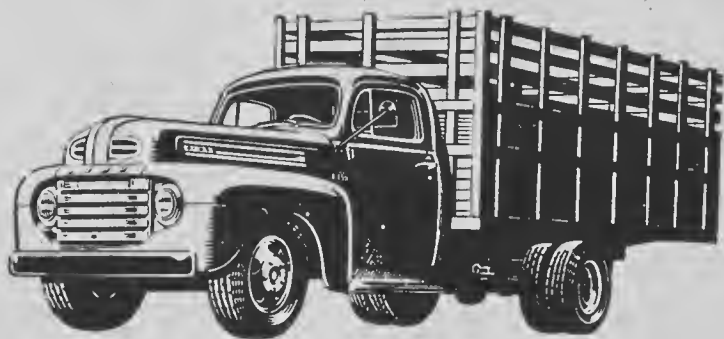
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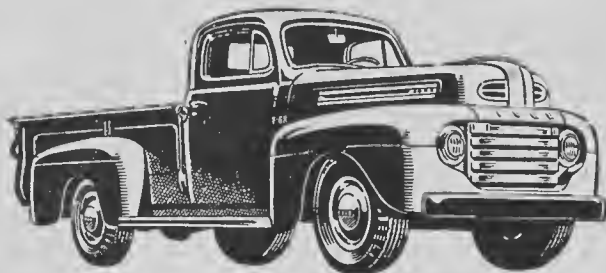
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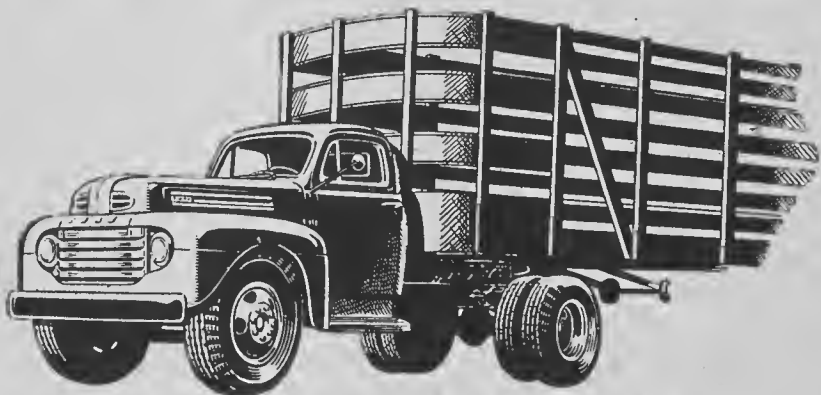
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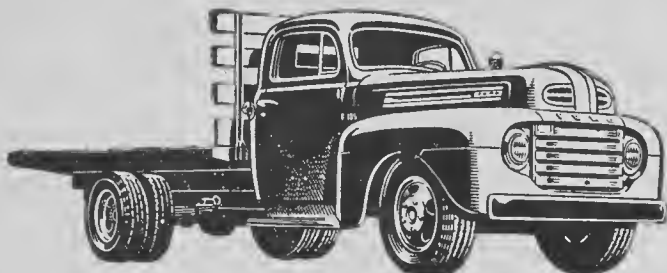
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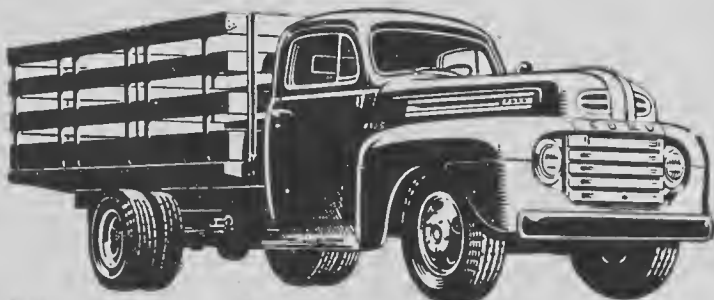
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"I wish Cecily were more like you."

Little Christmas

by Agnes Sligh Turnbull

When Mrs. Greaves decided to observe Yuletide the "old way" she little knew what would come of it



MARGARET GREAVES gave a last wave from the front steps as Henry's taxi lurched off down the icy street, then shivering, closed the door and moved dispiritedly toward the living room.

Christmas was over again, with all the so-called festive season, and she had never before felt quite so weary in body and mind, or so completely frustrated in heart.

This year, as always, she had looked forward to the great occasion with almost childish eagerness. Hank coming home from the University; Penny from college; Cecily and Bill, her husband, out from the city. The family together again, and pervading all, that beautiful delicate thrill of happiness which had been part of Christmas in the past.

But it hadn't worked. It never did, now; only this year everything had been worse than usual.

Margaret sank down on the divan and looked about her. The room had the cheerless, untidy look which falls upon a house at the end of the holidays. If this were only all, she thought! If a good day's cleaning would set everything right, how simple it would be. But the trouble went deeper.

Even so, she knew that the best immediate ease for the worries and disappointment of her heart was work. Penny's room upstairs was still in a whirlwind state after her departure yesterday, and Hank's not much better after his leaving two days before. At least this business trip of Henry's, while it left her lonely, would give her a chance to clean up.

She looked at the faded holly, the mistletoe, and the small tree. She would begin with them, for this was the day to take them down. It was Twelfth Night. It was also Epiphany, or "Little Christmas" as old foreign Anya, who had lived with them when the children were small, had always called it.

Suddenly a soft, startled flush rose in Margaret's cheeks. She sat there, thinking intently, and then she spoke aloud.

"Little Christmas!" she repeated over and over. "Little Christmas, now, today and mine if I want it!"

And she knew that she did want it! More than anything else in the world, she craved a second chance this year at keeping Christmas. Then like an excited girl, she began to plan. First of all she would make the living room clean and shining. She would take down the withered holly and substitute fresh greens; remove (with what a feeling of relief!) the absurd glass unicorns and golden balls that Cecily had arranged upon the mantel. She would even bring down from the attic the old creche, and the figures of the shepherds and the Wise Men which in the past had been the mantel decoration each Christmas.

Margaret remembered how the first time Cecily had found fault with them. It was her first Christmas home from college.

"Mother do we have to have all that old rubbish again on the mantel? It's so frightfully old-fashioned. I'd love to try something original! Something startling!"

As usual they had given in to Cecily, and the effect had been startling enough. It was the following year she had begged to trim the tree herself.

"I've got the most marvelous idea, Mother! It seems awfully childish to keep on handing up the same old baubles. Do let me try out my idea! Please!"

And of course they had let her. It would have been hard to refuse her anything that Christmas. She had come home president of her class, with four A's on her report, and a special commendatory letter from the dean. She was also to have the lead in the Sophomore play,

and had had a painting in the college art exhibit!

But that was Cecily—beautiful, brilliant, incredible. Beauty and brains, with artistic gifts added, had made her always the centre of every scene.

When young Hank had been born, the fact that he was a boy had balanced the fact of his more or less ordinary features. And as he grew older he had held his own with sturdy masculine normality.

It was Penny, their third child, who had been the problem. Her hair was dark and straight, her eyes shy and grey, her features too strong to be pretty. In school her work was not even quite average. Somehow she was always falling behind. She couldn't make one of the biggest colleges; certainly

(Turn to page 30)

Illustrated by
Samuel Diamond



"Cecily's a darn fool. If I had as nice a husband as Bill I'd want to have his children."



An Iowa farmer and his wife sign a document for a CCC loan on their corn crop in the office of the local county agent.

WHAT is commonly called "farm policy," represents, in simple terms, the economic actions or policies of the government of a country toward its agricultural industry. In Europe, for example, the attitudes of France and of England toward their agricultural industries have been in strong contrast until recently. The attitude of Britain from 1775 to 1945 was characterized principally by neglect, except for the two world war periods. The farm population of Britain is not more than ten per cent of her total population and Britain had been continuously committed for decades to a policy of cheap food, which could be imported at less cost than it could be produced at home. In France, on the other hand, the peasants make up a much larger percentage of the total population and are also the most stable political element in the country. No French government has ever successfully flouted peasant opinion for long. French agriculture, therefore, has been carefully tended and has carried top priority among the internal cares of the French government.

Especially since the early twenties there has been an increasing amount of government "interference" with agriculture in many countries. We in Canada know that, for its first significant beginnings here, we can go back to 1919 and the first Canadian Wheat Board. Practically ever since then, events of one kind or another have seemed to bring about more and more interference by government with the right of the individual to do as he pleases. We remember also that in the thirties, when we couldn't sell our wheat, it was because of a world economic collapse in which the governments of many coun-



tries, previously our best customers, tried to build restrictive walls around their national economies and keep out lower-priced foreign products. They did keep them out, while at the same time their own domestic prices were boosted to ridiculous levels. The long story of the growth of government management of national economies, however, does not belong in this article. What is notable is that government participation in the management of national trade and commerce is likely to be with us permanently, in some form. Certainly, as it affects agriculture, it will be with us until world trade and international relationships generally settle down and develop a much larger measure of stability than is evident at present. After that, it is more than possible that government management,

Should Gardiner Follow Brannan

regulation, or control in some form, will continue for the simple reason that governments will be unable, or afraid, to withdraw from it.

A number of reasons justify this belief. Basic among these is the necessity of averting a third world war, which could easily occur if unregulated free enterprise, in countries with abundant resources and high standards of living, were permitted to exploit its advantages in less fortunate countries. Also, food is a primary need of all peoples, and one of the important lessons taught us by both world wars is that efficient and abundant food production and distribution are essential to a peaceful world. Then, too, from a practical standpoint, it has been found necessary for governments to enter the post-war picture to facilitate international trade and

Is the U.S. policy of price supports applicable to Canada? This article makes some comparisons and discusses some difficulties

by H. S. FRY

Steel bins in Fremont County, Iowa, holding 190,000 bushels of corn on which CCC loans have been granted.

communications as much as possible. By international agreements and other arrangements, they can do what individuals and corporations would find it impossible to do. Once this pattern is established, it will be difficult to abolish it.

IT is these international relationships which have been primarily responsible for forcing individual countries into the field of internal farm policy. Countries such as Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, which are dependent on export markets for the disposal of some portion of agricultural production not salable at home, find it necessary to apply measures within the country which are designed to fit into that country's international trade policy.



The American farm program puts storage space at a premium. This disused Kansas limestone quarry is used for storing dried milk.

Coupled with these measures there is usually an attempt to provide some stabilization of farm income, since farm income is notoriously unstable unless some artificial means are used to even it out. Attempts to stabilize farm income, however, invariably highlight two important factors: (1) the long-standing disparity in incomes and the amenities of living, between farm and non-farm people; and (2) the very great complexity of the problem of achieving stability of farm income at a reasonably satisfactory level, while at the same time maintaining fairly balanced and abundant production.

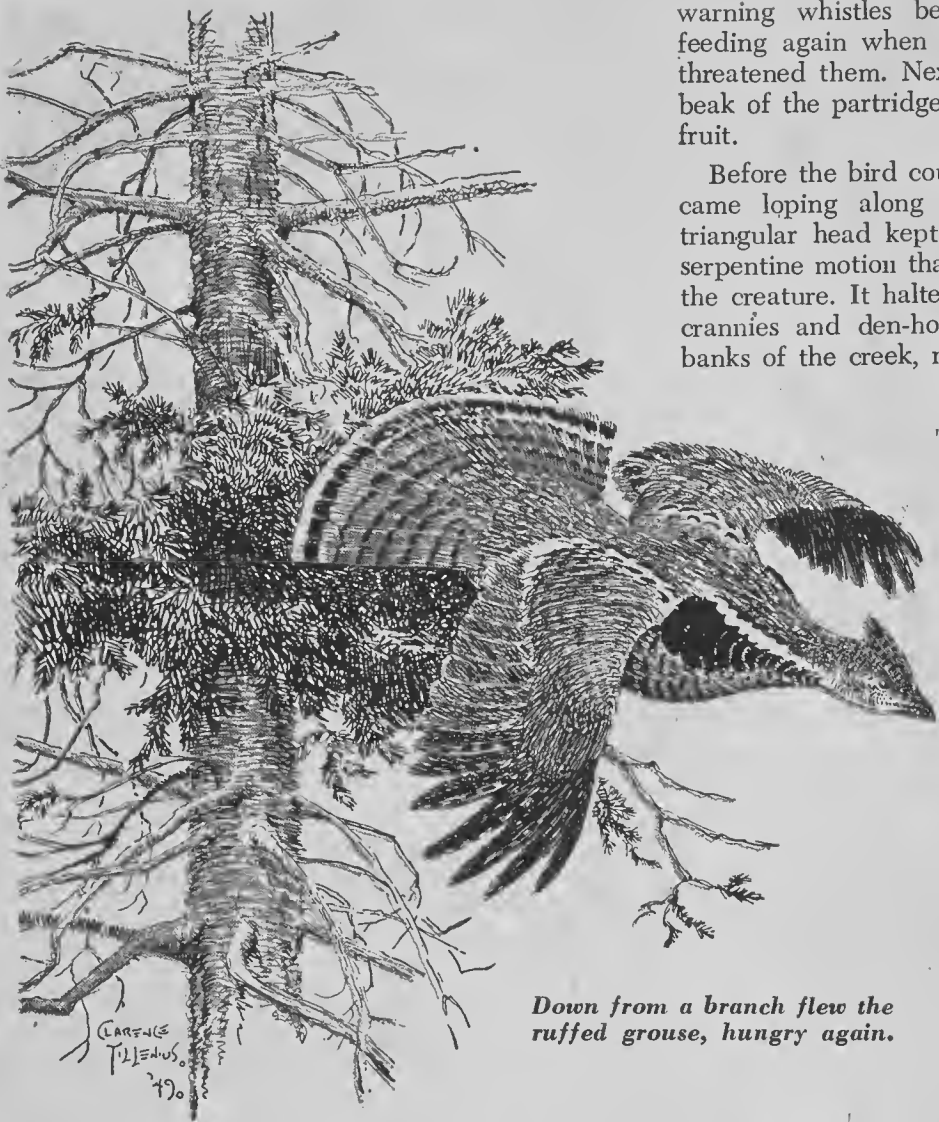
In one sense, Canada has had little experience in the operation of a well-balanced farm policy. True, we did experience controls of all kinds during the war and immediate post-war years, and we are still balancing precariously on the edge of diminishing bulk contracts with Britain, an international wheat agreement, and free freight on western feed grains to eastern Canada and B.C. We have a wheat agreement with Britain which expires next July and a \$200,000,000 transitional support fund under the Agricultural Prices Support Act, which expires next March. When the wheat agreement with Britain ends, the monopoly powers of the Wheat Board will also end, unless renewed.

Meanwhile, presumably, we continue to "trust God and Jimmie Gardiner," as one Manitoba farmer had it, even though both are mysterious personages. One thing seems certain: Canada must soon evolve a recognizable long-range farm policy which will have the clear approval and understanding of parliament and the intelligent support of the majority of Canadian farmers. To that end it might



be prudent also to remember Oliver Cromwell's advice to "put your trust in God, my boys, and keep your powder dry."

There is naturally considerable interest among Canadian farmers in the ambitious and unprecedented farm program which has developed in the United States over the last 28 years. Its essential features are: (1) acceptance of the parity-price principle, by which farmers are guaranteed a stated percentage of this parity price on certain basic farm commodities, with similarly-based price supports on other farm products, to the limit of funds appropriated by Congress and at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture; (2) the setting up of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which, by means of loans, purchases and (Turn to page 44)



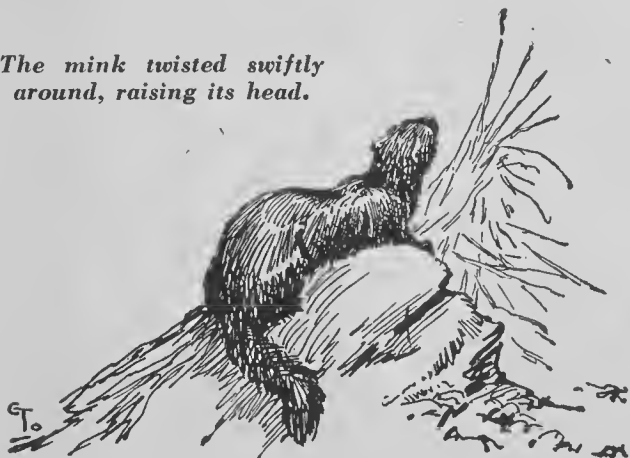
Down from a branch flew the ruffed grouse, hungry again.

DOWN from a branch flew the ruffed grouse, hungry again. The bird's wings beat a muffled tattoo as it hurtled through the winter woods, until at last the cock alighted under some willows that grew beside the frozen creek. There he stood alertly poised, black neck ruffles raised and topnotch held high, his bright eyes studied the surroundings.

The grouse saw a black-capped chickadee hanging head down from a nearby willow twig, the busy little bird questing for plant-lice eggs deposited on the grey bark of the osier. And he heard the shrill chattering of a squirrel amid the spruces back of the creek ravine, but there was no undue excitement about the squirrel's vocals to warn of danger. Behind the grouse, near the edge of the creek bank, a flock of pine grosbeaks uttered a subdued whistling as they feasted on the snowberries festooning the low bushes poked above the snow's surface. This was the food that had attracted the cock partridge to the spot. Another moment of silent watching; the beautiful grey-brown bird stepped towards the berry shrubs.

The snow was soft underfoot, but the comb-like appendages adorning each of the grouse's toes acted like tiny snowshoes to help hold up his weight. Thus he did not sink deeply into the snow, leaving a sharply etched track behind each feather-chapped foot. Straight to the berry patch went the bird, the rosy males and olive-drab females of the grosbeak clan chirping a flurry of

The mink twisted swiftly around, raising its head.



warning whistles before settling down to their feeding again when they realized that no danger threatened them. Next moment the strong, curved beak of the partridge began plucking off the dried fruit.

Before the bird could fill its crop, a dark animal came loping along the snow-covered creek. Its triangular head kept turning from side to side, a serpentine motion that added to the sinister look of the creature. It halted briefly opposite each of the crannies and den-holes tunnelled into the frozen banks of the creek, nostrils quivering eagerly as it tested these openings for scent of game. Suddenly it caught the warm bird-smell, and the lithe animal twisted swiftly around, raising its head. The mink soon spotted the feeding grosbeaks and the watchful grouse hunched amid the scanty screen of the snowberry bushes.

THE animal charged at once, and the partridge launched aloft out of harm's way. The bird's stiff pinions carried it speedily through the forest, up to the level land above the creek valley where he alighted on the

grouse, barking all the while the bird was flying up to a high branch on a nearby spruce tree. The dog continued to bark, a loud and insistent noise that made the partridge hold himself tense and still against the tree's trunk.

"Stay with 'im, Sport!" yelled a man's voice. "Hold 'im, Boy! I'm coming!"

The hunter crashed through the forest, his heavy boots breaking the snow's undercrust and his heedless progress snapping twigs noisily as he pushed through the brush. The man kept calling to his dog, urging the animal to keep its victim treed. Finally the human reached the clearing, whereupon the dog's barking became noisier.

"Now, then, Sport! where is he, eh?"

The man peered upwards, trying to follow the direction of the dog's gaze. The collie could clearly see the grouse, but the man saw a profusion of spruce branches and naked poplar limbs. The partridge's colors blended perfectly with the grey-brown trunk of the spruce.

"Why, it's a porcupine!" cried the man, suddenly spotting the chunky body of the quill-armoured rodent. "Hey, Sport—quit your barking! Doggonit, you know better'n to bother with porkies. Shut up now."

Then the man raised a long and shiny article, held himself very still, and suddenly a loud explosion shattered the silence. The porcupine seemed to be pushed from the crotch, wailing in an agonized way as it tumbled from the tree. Quickly the hunter grabbed the dog's collar, holding the excited collie away from the

fallen victim. Blood spurted onto the snow around the struggling porcupine. Its limbs jerked spasmodically a few times, then the straining body became limp and quiet. The man stepped close, still retaining his firm hold on the dog's collar.

"Keep your snout back," the hunter ordered, cuffing the dog lightly. "He's a big brute, huh? Look at the spines on 'im—must be hundreds of 'em."

He turned away, still gripping the collie's collar. They crossed the clearing, the dog squirming around to glance backwards towards the grouse's tree.

"Hunt for partridge," commanded the man, releasing the dog at the edge of the forest. "Go on, now—go sic 'em out! And don't fool around with any more porkies, either."

The collie glanced backwards once more, barked briefly, then bounded off into the woods. The hunter followed, (Turn to page 25)

A great horned owl sounded a deep-toned hooting from a dark ravine.



ONE WINTER'S DAY

by KERRY WOOD

Against a snowy setting, the drama of wild creatures of the woodlands unfolds before one who has alert eyes and ears

edge of a clearing framed by spruces and dwarf junipers.

Again the rigid pose, the careful scrutiny of the adjacent woodlands. A white and black downy woodpecker was gravely inspecting the dead bark on an old balm stump nearby. Halfway up a young spruce a fat porcupine was braced on a crotch, the animal's strong teeth shuttling noisily as it wrenched off strips of the white inner bark for food. A rabbit squatted under a juniper branch; its long ears had flagged forward briefly when the grouse arrived, then slanted back over its shoulders as the bunny continued its sleep.

Once more the partridge searched for food. This time, the bird scratched away the snow to expose the glossy foliage of chickenberry, with bright red berries nestled amidst the frozen green leaves of the vine. The feeding busied him, alternating scratching, eating, and keeping a careful lookout for enemies.

THEN the sharp, man-call of a bluejay shrilled through the winter woods. This alarm made the woodpecker leave the balm stump and fly away, while even the dull-witted porcupine stopped feeding to peer slowly around. And quickly following the jay call, the barking of a dog sounded loud and near. At this, the rabbit awakened with a start and nervously hopped out of its form.

A scrub collie raced out of the woods. It had followed the main rabbit runway, hence its nose was down and the dog missed seeing the white bunny as the little animal dodged into the thick underbrush on the far side of the clearing. But the collie became greatly excited when it flushed the

Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius

DRY YEARS



will



Dry years need not be so disastrous, but many will suffer needlessly from their own negligence

by A. E. PALMER

WHAT may we expect if the dry years come again? This is an interesting and an important question. Perhaps it should be asked in a more positive way, "What will happen when the dry years come again?" since most people who have studied the weather records of the past, think that the dry years will repeat themselves. However, we will not use space to argue this point. Let's proceed to what we may expect if or when a series of dry years come together, as they did in the five-year period of 1933 to 1937 over much of the prairies, and for a longer time in some localities.

First, perhaps, we should refresh our memories by a brief review of the drought period of the thirties. This is especially necessary for the younger folks, as anyone now under 22 years of age can have, at best, only a childhood memory of the "Dirty Thirties." For five years the weatherman dished out rainfall grudgingly to the entire prairies, from the park belt of Canada on the north, to the gulf areas of Texas. Seed failed to germinate, or cutworms cut off the plants as they came up, while grasshoppers increased rapidly in the dry weather and ate up the vegetation.

All across the prairies, farmers were fallowing large blocks of land and keeping it bare. Trash cover farming was used by but few. While rainfall was scarce, winds were plentiful and bare fields started to move. Little attention was paid to this at first, but soon large areas were piled up into drifts, with the soil blown away from plowed fields, down to the plow sole. Wind-breaks were buried and buildings were covered. In 1935 I visited most sections of the Canadian prairies from the Rockies to southwest Manitoba and found bad drifting conditions everywhere.

Not only were soils out of control, but water holes had dried up. There was little grass on the range, and feed supplies were depleted. Farmers and ranchers could not maintain their livestock, and entire herds were put on the market. Cattle prices went down to three cents a pound and less.

Accompanying this was a general financial depression, with resulting low prices and unemployment. People everywhere were in desperate financial straits. Public relief bills became colossal. This, briefly, was the situation in the last dry period.



WHAT may we expect now if a series of dry years return? Will we experience the same calamities we did in the thirties? Or will we profit by our experience of those years and the lessons learned, and so avoid their disasters?

Soil drifting was the greatest creator of havoc. Everywhere soils were moving. Bare fallows or fields, where drought or insects had prevented crops from growing, started to move and formed a sand blast that cut a swath before it, so that miles of fields were involved and became a drifting waste. No wonder that farmers in the midst of this threw up their hands in despair and said that nothing could be done; that the country would become a desert as they saw their neighbors' fields blow onto theirs, and theirs in turn travel on to the next neighbor.

Will this happen again? It need not, for we learned how to prevent drifting and hold soils in place; also how to stop even the worst of drifting conditions. Those who were assigned the task in Canada by the Dominion Government, under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, tackled the worst situations they could find and brought every area they worked on under control.



The amount of trash left on the surface by modern tillage machinery would shock old-style farmers.

Top Centre: A. E. Palmer, author of this article.

Left: This frozen soil is being ridged with a one-way lister, against winter drifting.

Right: Blade cultivators can keep fallows free of weed growth, without much disturbance of the trash cover.

Bottom: Seeding wheat under trash cover by dropping the grain immediately behind the blade of a blade cultivator.

COME AGAIN

Those who went through that experience know that serious soil drifting on the Canadian prairies does not need to occur. It can be prevented. But will it be prevented? Very likely not completely. Too many do their work in the easiest way and will not take the precautions necessary until an emergency forces them to action.

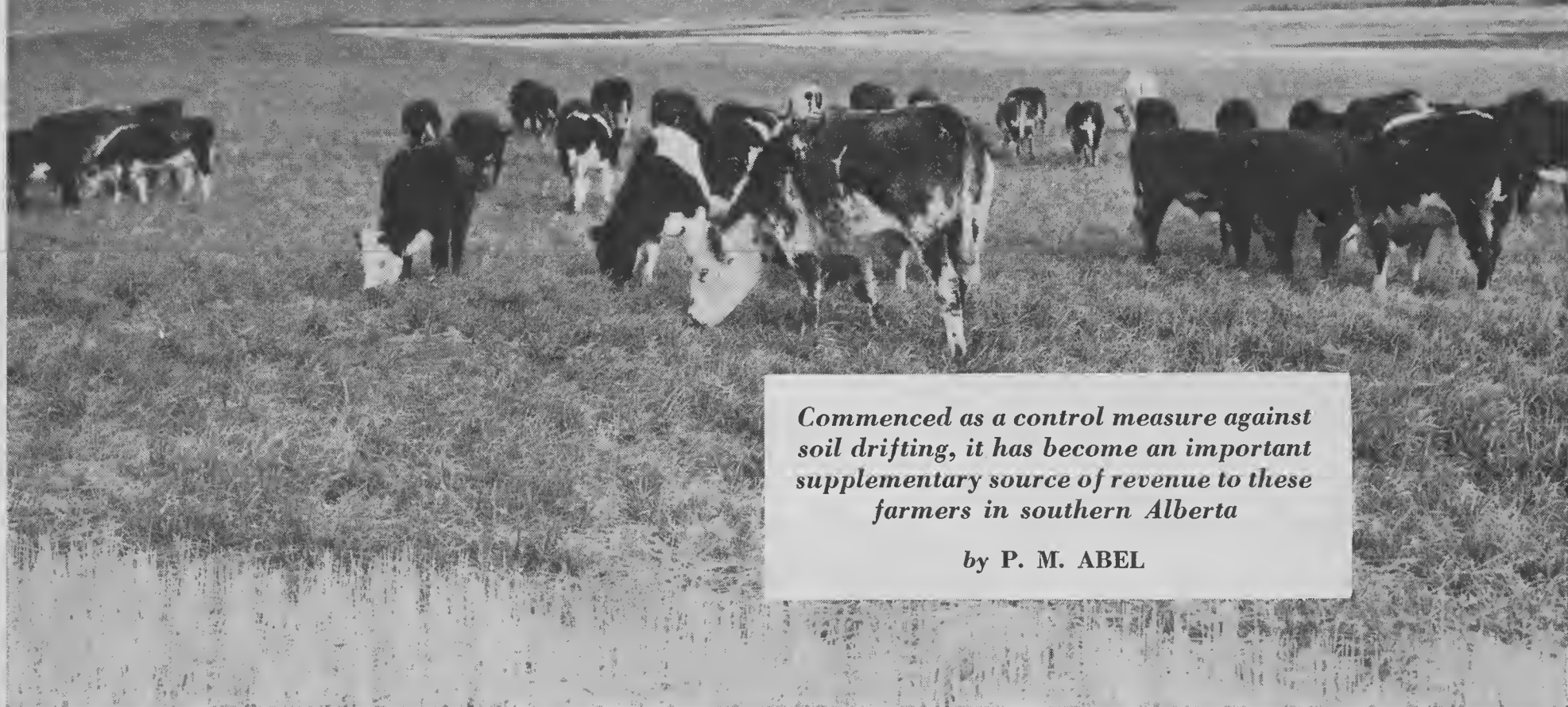
If you question this statement, think of what happened this year. Were you in one of the cities or towns this spring where dust from farms of the area filled the air like a fog? Were you in the drought areas in June when field after field was drifting almost like snow? Did you happen to make a two-hundred-mile drive that windy 16th of July as I did, and see fallow after fallow blowing, while at mid-day you drove through a black blizzard, passing cars with their lights on. No, that was not in the thirties. It was in 1949.

People will take chances, and we seem to forget dangers if they are absent for awhile. For example, we know that it is dangerous to fallow large blocks of land, but we are doing it again. Strip farming saved many fields and became widely used. Then sawflies made stripping difficult and many entire districts abandoned the practice. Where Rescue wheat and other control measures have removed this problem, stripping could, and should, be used again. We know that trash covers protect soils, but we persist in covering our stubble with repeated use of the one-way. That is why so many fields drifted this year, and why we are forced to say that there will be serious soil drifting if the dry years come again.

BUT there will not be as much drifting as in the thirties. Thousands of acres of light soils that were the most difficult to hold, have been taken out of cultivation and have been seeded to crested wheatgrass or other grasses, or returned to native vegetation.

Then there are farmers in every district who are following good control practices and will not let their soils drift. Municipal service or agricultural boards, district agriculturists, county agents, soil conservation personnel and most farmers, know how to prevent or stop drifting. This was not true in many localities in the early thirties. (Turn to page 20)

Cover Cropping



Commenced as a control measure against soil drifting, it has become an important supplementary source of revenue to these farmers in southern Alberta

by P. M. ABEL

[Photos by Lawrence Strang.]

Steers from nearby ranges finishing on excellent cover crop on the farm of Thos. Dimm, near Claresholm. Note alternate strips of stubble and crop.

IT isn't very often that a group of farmers stumble onto a practice that brings close on a quarter of a million dollars into one town in a favorable year. Yet this is what happened around Claresholm, in sight of southern Alberta's eternal snows.

The gently rolling, treeless plain tributary to this town is one of the finest stretches of grain growing land lying out of doors. Its crop record is surpassed by few, if any, prairie localities. For some years the town is said to have had more grain elevators than any of its rivals, and in at least one year more wheat has been shipped from it than from any other initial shipping point.

But Claresholm has had a few downs as well as ups. Around the close of the first war it had a series of dry years in which soil drifting was a real menace on the lighter lands south of the town. Farmers did not know as much about soil drift control in those days as they do now. There was a tremendous amount of experimentation going on. That fertile genius, Charley Noble, living 25 miles east, was perfecting the blade which now bears his name and which has become one of the chief defensive weapons against drifting. South of his farm, over toward Monarch, the Koole brothers were working out the refinements of strip farming, now a dominant practice over a wide area. Within walking distance of Claresholm, Delbert Reynolds

was making another discovery that didn't bear fruit for well nigh on 20 years.

In 1918 Reynolds bought a half section of land south of town. It wasn't much of a farm. But young lads making a start have to begin modestly. The soil on this farm was light. The previous owner was so frightened at the prospect of having his summer-fallow gouged out by the wind that coming fall that he sowed a ten-acre strip of oats along the exposed edge of the field. Skies were black with blow soil around Claresholm that year, but the oat strip was anchored as securely as a forest. After threshing Reynolds put his calves into it and they grew fat.

This experience impressed the young farmer so much that in the following year he sowed all his fallow down to cover crop in sufficient time to get a protective stand before the wild autumn blasts bear down out of the Crow. There was no end of head shaking among his older neighbors. One and all declared he was defeating the very purpose of fallowing. His cover crop was using up the moisture which should be saved for the next year's grain crop. "If you sow a cover crop," they assured him, "you will have no grain crop next year if it turns out dry."

"If I *don't* put in a cover crop," retorted Reynolds, "I won't have anything but a basement. If I protect the land with a stand of grain through the windy

fall and spring months, I will at least have a farm."

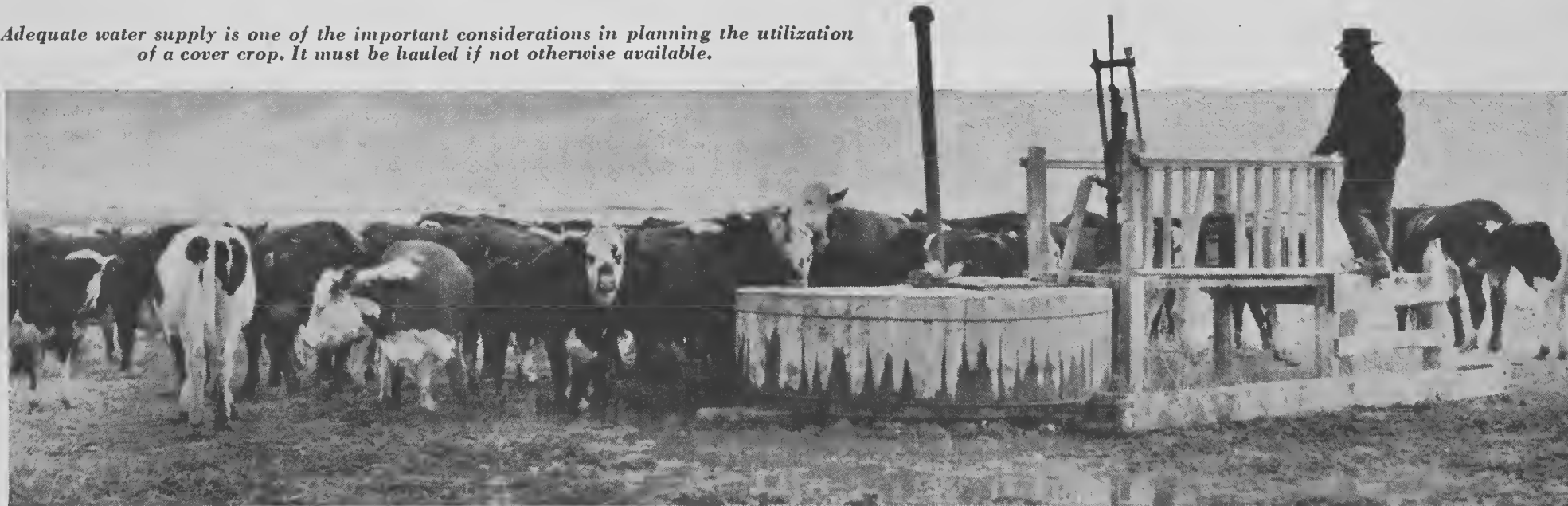
But the bold young innovator had something else to learn. He did not run sufficient stock on the green growth. Next spring was unusually wet and there was so much trash on the surface that the land was hard to work. That provided his critics with another coffin nail.

Further misfortune followed. The years '21, '22 and '23 were bad 'hopper years. The late broods feasted on the lush green cover crop, the best late season meal in that neck of the woods. By cold weather it was too thin to be much of a wind barrier. Fields with cover crops on them suffered nearly as much from blowing as open fields.

By the mid-twenties cover cropping looked like a lost cause. Good years had come again. Claresholm farmers went back to traditional methods of cultivation and did well. Delbert Reynolds never completely gave up cover cropping, but the spur of his inventiveness was dulled. Soil drifting was no problem around Claresholm for another decade.

The experimenting Reynolds did one thing, however, which won over many of the unbelievers at a later date. He induced the white collar men, who know all about these things, to take soil samples and to make moisture determinations in the spring from adjacent fallows, some of which had grown cover crops, and (Turn to page 46)

Adequate water supply is one of the important considerations in planning the utilization of a cover crop. It must be hauled if not otherwise available.



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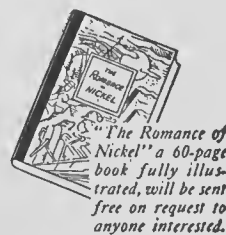
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B.C. Dreams Of Oil

Active prospecting goes on at several locations in the hope of repeating Alberta success

by CHAS. L. SHAW

BRITISH Columbians are looking rather enviously across the Rockies to Alberta these days, marvelling at the sudden flow of wealth from the oil fields and wondering if the fabulous success of Leduc, Redwater and other areas may be duplicated in their own province.

Geologically speaking, there is a good chance that oil and natural gas will be found in large quantities in the west coast province, and when Pacific Petroleum's well hit the most promising flow of gas yet recorded in British Columbia, a few days ago, optimism bloomed among those who hope to add yet another important industry to B.C.'s diversified production.

People are already pointing out that the revenue obtained from Alberta oil developments during the past year or so would more than offset the revenue derived from British Columbia's recently enforced sales tax. It would naturally be much more satisfactory to the average British Columbian if the provincial government could dispense with the tax and collect its equivalent from petroleum royalties, auctions, sales and oil industry levies.

At this stage, of course, this is little more than daydreaming. The oil may be there, but it has yet to be discovered. However, there is consolation in the fact that many large companies are actively prospecting for both oil and gas in British Columbia, not only in the Peace River country, which would seem to be a natural extension of the Alberta fields, but on the Queen Charlotte Islands and the archipelago lying between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Since nearly all the oil and gasoline consumed in British Columbia originates in California or South America, the replacement of this imported material by domestic production would be of far-reaching economic consequence.

BRITISH COLUMBIA growers had been hoping to market 2,000,000 or more boxes of Okanagan apples in the United States, and so they may, but orchardists in the adjoining state of Washington are raising the cry of tariff restriction, and are protesting to their congressmen against competition from the north.

According to Washington growers, they are in favor of reciprocal trade as a principle, but they don't regard it so highly in a year such as this when there is a large surplus apple crop. Ordinarily, they say, 2,000,000 boxes of apples, more or less, from Canada would not create much consternation, but the Washingtonians are afraid that these imports will cut into their own sales, especially since the Okanagan apples, according to their story, are obtainable in the U.S. at less cost.

The Americans also contend that their wage bills and other factors entering into the cost of production are higher than in British Columbia—an argument that Okanagan growers would probably refute. At any rate, the British Columbians do not appear to be very much concerned. They

have their troubles, but selling in the United States this year doesn't appear to be one of them.

Their friends the lumbermen are in a similar situation. Denied access to some of their traditional overseas markets, they have been taking advantage of the high prices and booming demand in the United States and doing very well. So far, too, they have been doing business without incurring the wrath of lumber operators in Washington and Oregon, who usually voice objections and demand tariff protection whenever Canadian lumber moves across the border in more than average volume. But there has been almost complete silence so far, due no doubt to the fact that the American lumber market has been big enough to absorb everything that is offered.

An important factor in stimulating sales of Canadian apples and lumber in the United States has, of course, been the devalued dollar. But apart from that, except in the case of apples and a few other exceptions, there seems to be a growing recognition in the United States that trade must move both ways. The difficulty in carrying out this principle lies in the fact that so many interests regard themselves as special cases entitled to special treatment.

AS this is written, the American apple growers have merely complained about the threat of losing business to the Canadians. Nothing official has been done about it at Washington and Okanagan growers are hoping that the incident will be shrugged off, which is the treatment the Okanagan growers themselves applied to the distribution of their apples in the British market this fall.

It will be recalled that the Canadian government made a deal with the United Kingdom whereby 435,000 boxes of British Columbia apples and 400,000 barrels of Nova Scotia apples would be shipped to Britain, the Ottawa treasury paying half the shot.

Cable reports from overseas indicated that Canada had lost much favorable publicity by the fact that the Ministry of Food in London did not offer the apples to consumers at very low prices and make it known that such an offer was due to the generosity of Canada. It was pointed out that similar opportunities for self-promotion had not been missed by Australia and New Zealand, which had made similar "gifts" of food to Britain.

On second thought, there wasn't much, if any thing, for the Canadian growers to criticize. They were glad to have some of their apples shipped to the British market under almost any conditions so that the dependable Old Country consumer wouldn't forget the taste of Canadian fruit, and they were happy to make a contribution towards relieving the monotony of the British austerity diet. It would have been nice if the British Ministry of Food had been able to let consumers have the apples at half price, in view of the fact that Canada had absorbed 50 per cent of the cost, but the growers felt that it really wasn't their business. As for being thanked publicly, well, that wasn't important.

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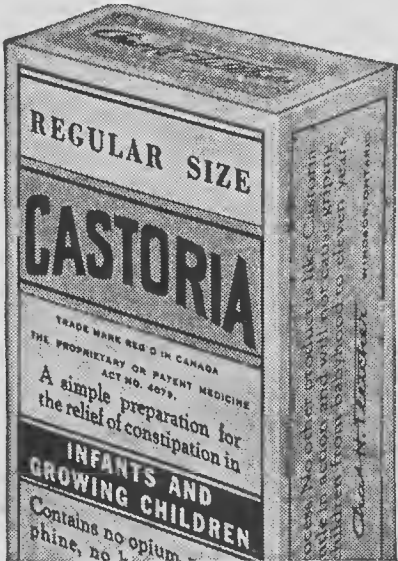
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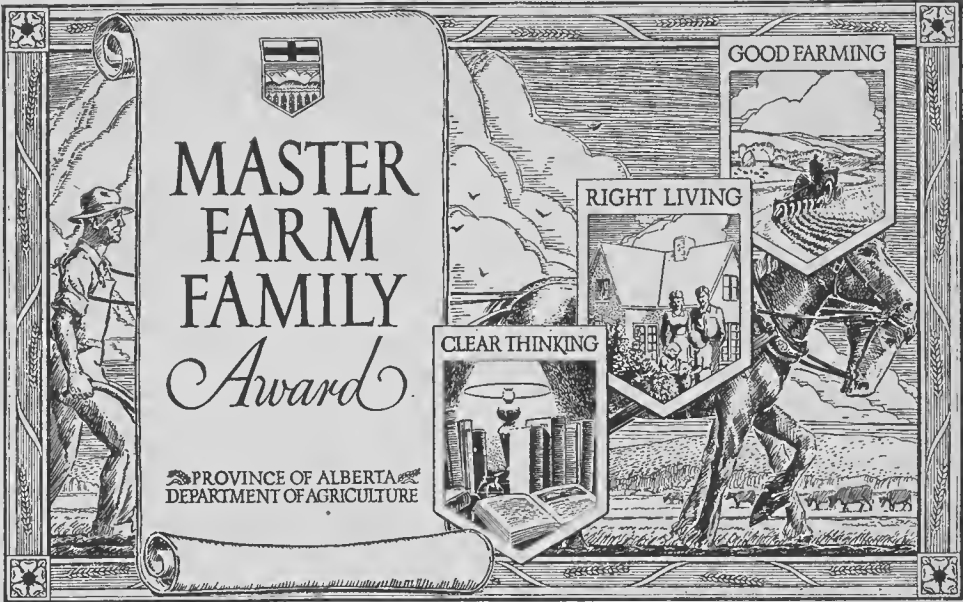
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News of Agriculture



Reproduction of the plaque awarded to winners of master farm family awards in Alberta, established by the Alberta Department of Agriculture this year.

Get It At A Glance

Short items of interest to farmers

THE Alberta Department of Agriculture this year established a Master Farm Family Award based on Canadian citizenship, actual operation of a farm for 10 successive years (including military service), nomination by a minimum of three neighbors, and personal acceptance of the nomination. Designed to dignify rural life, recognize a high type of citizenship and reward notable progress in farming, homemaking and citizenship, the award carries with it the sum of \$1,000, an engraved plaque and a name plate for the farm entrance. Winners in 1949 were: Joseph V. Dusseault, Vimy; W. J. Edgar, Innisfail; L. R. Jensen, Magrath; J. F. Melenka, Warwick, and J. L. Paquette, Donnelly.

NOW comes a report of killing injurious insects by "death rays." A report from Brazil suggests the possibility of killing insects, larvae and eggs in stored grain in about 30 seconds, by using a form of short wave, instead of in 24 hours where poisonous gases are used.

THE United States Government has approximately \$2.5 billion invested in farm commodities purchased, or held on loan by the Commodity Credit Corporation. This figure varies from month to month as do the proportions of different crops held. For the year ending June 30, 1949, the CCC showed a net realized loss of \$254 million.

FOR the year 1948-49 the U.S. exported 49.5 billion pounds of food to foreign countries, more than five times the average tonnage exported during 1935-39. This amount was 16 per cent of total food distribution by the United States, and 82 per cent of it consisted of grain. As much as 63 per cent of all U.S. food exports went to the 16 Marshall Plan countries.

THE aim of postwar governments is to raise living standards everywhere, through the United Nations and its agencies. Population growth varies by countries from 1½ to 2½ per cent per year, but raising living standards would mean increasing food production by 2 to 3½ per cent per year.

INDIA wants to make herself sufficient in food by 1951 and her farmers have been asked to increase food production by 15 per cent.

THE first co-operatively-owned pig hatchery in North America was organized in October as the Red River Valley Pig Hatchery. It will be located southwest of Morris, Manitoba. Its breeding stock will consist of 60 gilts and two boars and the centre will be operated to make weanling pigs of good breeding available to farmer members at cost.

THERE are forty agricultural societies in Newfoundland. Since 1947 each society has received an annual grant of \$40 plus one dollar per member. Today nearly all societies are represented within the recently formed Newfoundland Farmers' Association, which will tackle important farm problems, such as inadequate storage and shipping facilities, and costly deliveries.

THE U.S. government will support live hog prices through to the end of March, if necessary, at 90 per cent of the September 15 parity for hogs (adjusted according to normal seasonal marketing patterns) instead of specific price supports as usual, for good and choice barrows at Chicago and other markets. The new program is based on the monthly average price received by farmers for all hogs. This support level for January is \$14.90, for February \$15.50, and for March \$16.20.

UP to November 11 a total of 42.2 million bushels of wheat had been shipped under the International Wheat Agreement, a shade more than half from Canada, exclusive of the amount under the Canada-U.K. Agreement. Biggest importers were Belgium, South Africa and the United Kingdom, who accounted for slightly more than 50 per cent of import purchases. Other countries arranged in order of purchased amounts were Switzerland, Portugal, Mexico, Norway, Ireland, Israel, Venezuela and Peru. Ten other countries purchased less than a million bushels each.

THE Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that Canadian farmers purchased farm implements and equipment to the amount of \$170,666,070 in 1947-48. These figures underestimate the cost to farmers by the difference between wholesale and retail prices, but represent nevertheless an increase of 39.4 per cent over the 1946-47 figure. Purchases in the prairie provinces constituted 62.5 per cent of the total for Canada. Saskatchewan led all provinces with a purchase of \$46.5 million, Ontario next with \$38.4 million, Alberta third with \$36.7 million and Manitoba fourth with \$23.3 million, for a 50 per cent increase over the previous year. Purchase of repair parts also increased by 16 per cent to \$26.9 million of which 70.5 per cent was purchased in the three prairie provinces.

CANADA'S imports and exports have risen a great deal in the last 10 years but the increase has been more in prices than in quantities. The value of exports rose 267 per cent from 1938 to 1948, while the physical volume of exports rose 73 per cent. Total values of imports rose 290 per cent in the same period, while the physical volume rose 81 per cent.

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations represents 58 member countries. Its function is to increase and improve production in farming, forestry and fisheries and to improve nutrition and rural welfare in all member countries. Its budget for this world job is only two per cent of the annual budget of the United States Department of Agriculture.

THE proposal for an International Commodity Clearing House, which would handle the sales of farm commodities in real surplus in exporting countries, was turned down by the F.A.O. Annual Conference held in Washington late in November. The proposal originated in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, was accepted by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers at its Annual Convention held at Guelph in June, and later endorsed by the Council of F.A.O. in Paris a week or two later. It was gone over later by a committee of experts representative of several countries, before presentation to the F.A.O. Conference.

IN addition to provincial marketing legislation, programs for the stabilization and support of farm prices in Canada are carried out under five Federal Acts. These are: The Agricultural Prices Support Act; The Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Act; The Canadian Wheat Board Act; The Agricultural Products Act, and The Agricultural Products Marketing Act.

WHEN the International Wheat Council met in London, England recently, 31 countries had ratified the International Wheat Agreement. Five signatory countries have not yet ratified: Uruguay, China, Columbia, Liberia and the Philippine Republic. The deadline of acceptance was extended from October 31 to February 28, 1950. Haiti was accepted as a member country requiring about one million bushels, but the addition of Germany and Japan was laid aside until the next meeting of the council on December 15.

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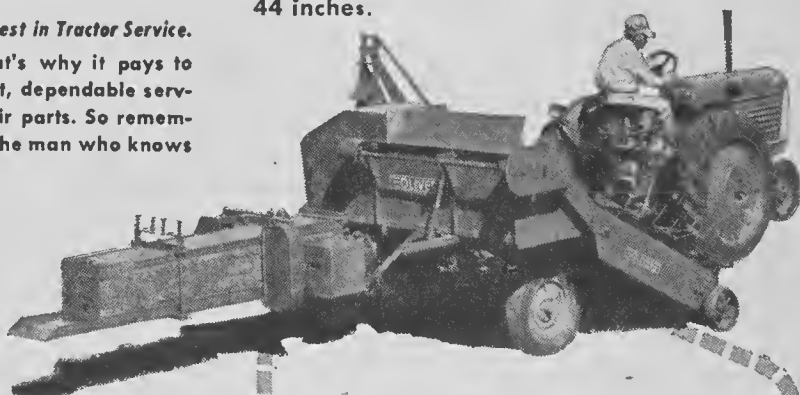


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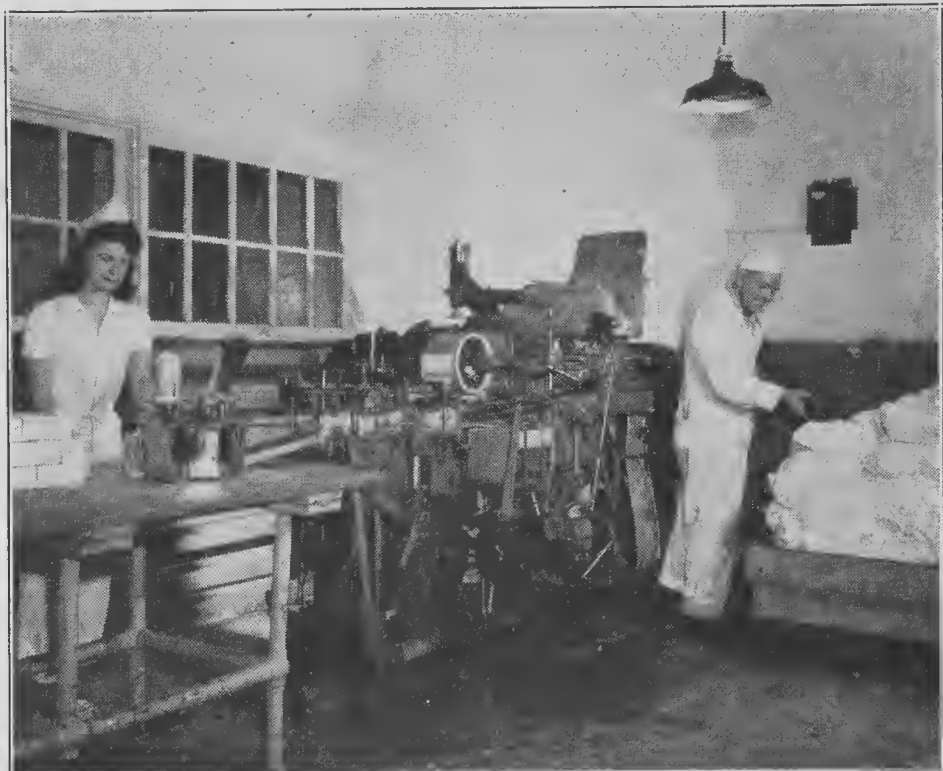
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If the mechanization going into the packaging of butter shown here could be paralleled in typical dairy barns in western Canada dairying would be a less laborious task.

Vitamins In A Bottle

THE feeding of cod liver oil to suckling and growing pigs is an important factor in the reduction of losses from colds, pneumonia and similar ailments. Cod liver oil should be fed at the rate of one teaspoonful a day for each growing pig, says A. J. Charnetski, Livestock Supervisor, Alberta Department of Agriculture.

This amount can be reduced where commercial supplements are used, and can be cut off completely when pigs have reached a weight of 60 to 70 pounds. After suckling pigs have become used to creep feeding it is simple to feed it to them daily. Before they begin eating any grain it is a good idea to drop four or five drops of concentrated cod liver oil on the tongue of each pig at the time of treatment with reduced iron. This is on the third, tenth and seventeenth day after birth.

Some care should be exercised to avoid overdosing with reduced iron. The correct dose is one-half the amount of reduced iron that will lie flat on a dime to the thickness of the dime.

Feeding Low-Grade Potatoes

CULL and low-grade potatoes can be fed successfully to beef cattle. That is what recent experiments show at the University of Minnesota's Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station at Crookston.

Seeking new practical ways of using these potatoes, the Station set up a feeding trial with 24 medium-grade, yearling, feeder steers. Purpose of the trial was to see how successfully raw potatoes could be fed whole with good quality hay, chopped with good quality hay, and whole with oat straw.

The feeding trial, which lasted 168 days, resulted in the following conclusions:

Steers fed grain and good quality roughage were slightly better finished than similar lots fed potatoes and limited grain.

Steers fed whole potatoes made cheaper gains than the grain-fed steers.

It is not profitable to slice potatoes for fattening cattle.

Whole potatoes and a good quality roughage had a feeding value of 39.3 cents per hundredweight. Substituting oat straw for a better quality roughage, the potatoes had a feeding value of 55.8 cents per hundredweight.

A cheap class of roughage appears to be entirely suitable, with a full feed of whole potatoes in rations for fattening cattle.

The kind of steers fed potatoes in this experiment generally produced satisfactory dressing percentages and carcass grades.

Index Of Breeding Values

IT is a maxim among animal breeders that like tends to beget like. Dairy cattle breeders, who work with animals, the production of which can be measured from year to year without slaughtering, know that a proven dairy herd sire of superior excellence is likely to sire high-producing daughters in the herd. Proving a bull is based on the production of the bull's daughters and their dams. With this information a breeder is assisted in selecting a superior bull from among the proven sires available.

The breeder's problem is made more difficult, however, by the fact that it takes time to prove a sire, and in the aggregate a much longer time to prove superior sires, because there are so few of them. Consequently, if breeders could find some method of judging the breeding quality of a bull while he is still a calf, herd improvement should be more rapid. This should also be true of heifer calves as well, since the accuracy of selection would be increased for both males and females in the herd. Workers at the University of Wisconsin have been investigating this problem and have worked out a formula which gives the indexes or probable breeding values of rats, for response to a particular hormone. The indexes were based entirely on information from the rats' sisters, and were used in order to predict the response of the offspring of each pair of rats.

These predictions were later compared with the observed results in the offspring of 14 generations of rats selected for high response in one

group and low in another. The results among those selected for high response agreed closely with the prediction, though those selected for low response did not agree as closely.

It would take a long time to prepare similar and, at the same time, reliable indexes for dairy cattle, because the time between generations is so much longer with cattle than for rats. Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable to suppose that eventually it will be possible to short-cut a great deal of the laborious testing of low, medium and high quality individuals, in order to discover the breeding qualities of the better kinds.

Hammermill Roughage

IT requires a two-plow tractor to adequately handle a hammermill. Authorities at the Dominion Experimental Station, Swift Current, emphasize the fact that as the fineness of grind increases, the power required also increases; and also that when roughage is being put through a hammermill, the coarseness or fibre content of the roughage and the most moisture content, are each factors determining the amount of power necessary.

In certain parts of the prairie provinces this year feed is scarce, and the utilization of material ordinarily wasted is a matter of prime necessity. A mixture of cereal grain and Russian thistle is sometimes fed when feed is scarce, but unless it is put through a hammermill, livestock will be more inclined to waste feed of this kind. Grinding, therefore, is given an added advantage because it will not only aid digestion, help animals with poor teeth, and quicken the consumption of a given amount of feed, but eliminate waste as well.

For beef, dairy cattle and sheep, Swift Current authorities recommend a medium to coarse grind. To get this they recommend a screen with three-quarters to one and one-quarter-inch opening, or no screens at all.

To secure maximum efficiency mills should be run to capacity, which means uniform, steady feeding, assisted by the use of self-feeders and a volume governor.

Confidence In Feeds

A RATION for any class of livestock must contain the correct proportions of the essential nutrients—proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals and vitamins. These nutrients are not usually present in the most effective proportions in farm grains, and in order to correctly balance feeding rations, Canadian farmers buy about one and a half million tons of prepared feeds each year. This is without doubt economical. A properly proportioned or balanced ration increases production, while an unbalanced ration tends to lower production, may lead to a failure to reproduce, and, in extreme cases, may lead to a loss of livestock.

It is not usually too easy for a farmer to buy the necessary supplements to balance his own rations. For this reason prepared feeds are used extensively, either as a complete ration or as a supplement to home-grown feeds. To insure that farmers may have complete confidence that they get what they pay for, The Feeding Stuffs Act requires feed manufacturers to guarantee the fibre, fat and protein levels, and to list the ingredients in the feed. Representatives of

the Plant Products Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, make periodical checks of mixed feeds and take samples which are analyzed to insure that the guarantee is being met.

Grain Values For Hog Feed

THE Council of Canadian Meat Packers has prepared a table illustrating very strikingly the relationship between the price received for barley, oats and wheat fed to hogs, when dressed hogs range from \$20 to \$30 per 100 pounds in price, and when the amount of feed required to produce 100 pounds of live hog varies from 375 to 500 pounds. The table has no direct relationship to the returns on any particular farm, but it is of marked significance in demonstrating the effect of efficient feeding on the return per bushel of feed.

For example, suppose dressed hogs sell at \$20 per cwt. A hundred pounds of live hog yields approximately 75 pounds of warm, dressed carcass. If 500 pounds of feed are required to produce 100 pounds of live hog, then each bushel of feed in the form of barley returns \$1.44, while oats returns \$1.02 and wheat \$1.80 per bushel. If the same gain can be produced on 450 pounds of feed, barley becomes worth \$1.60, oats \$1.13 and wheat \$2 per bushel. If the feed is still further reduced to 400 pounds for 100 pounds of gain, barley feed increases to \$1.80 per bushel, oats to \$1.28 and wheat \$2.25 per bushel. Very efficient feeders can sometimes produce a hundred pounds of gain in hogs on 375 pounds of feed. In such cases, the barley becomes worth \$1.92 per bushel, though dressed hogs are still worth only \$20 per cwt., oats are worth \$1.36 per bushel and wheat \$2.40.

When the price of dressed hogs increases to \$30 per 100 pounds then the maximum return to be expected from feeding a bushel of barley increases to \$2.88 at 375 pounds of feed per hundred pounds of gain; and decreases to \$2.70 when 400 pounds of feed are used, to \$2.40 when 450 pounds are used, and to \$2.16 per bushel when 500 pounds of feed are needed for 100 pounds of gain.

The price of dressed hogs is outside the farmer's own control, but efficiency of feeding is something which he himself must assume responsibility for. Comparing 500 pounds of feed and 375 pounds of feed to produce a hundred pounds of live hog means that the return for a bushel of barley goes up from \$2.16 to \$2.88 per bushel; the value of a bushel of oats from \$1.53 to \$2.04, and the value of a bushel of wheat from \$2.70 to \$3.60 when hogs are \$30 per cwt.

These prices per bushel are, of course, gross returns. They are not, strictly speaking, the price received for marketing grain through hogs. They are the prices received for both the hog and grain enterprises on the farm, expressed in terms of grain prices. To be profitable, therefore, grain prices expressed in this way must be high enough to pay for all the costs of growing the feed grain and the hogs, including labor and interest and depreciation on buildings and equipment. Most farmers, however, would feel that they could afford to grow quite a few hogs if they could sell their barley in this way at from \$2.40 to \$2.70 per bushel, by using from 400 to 450 pounds of feed to produce one hundred pounds of gain.

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Remember, too, if you require plans for any farm or community buildings, these can be made available to you through your lumber merchant.

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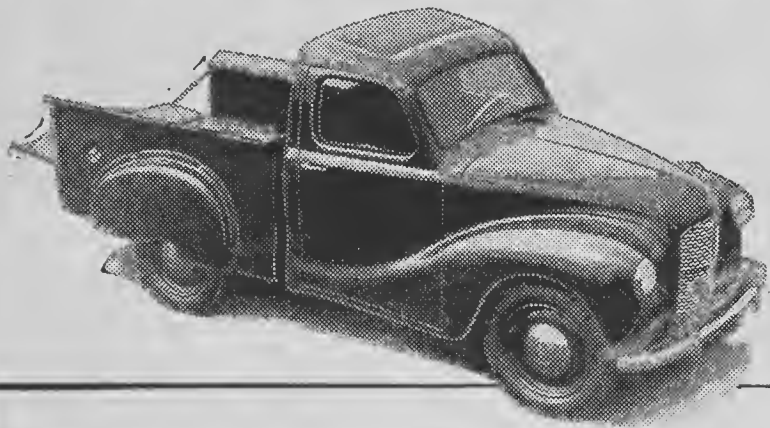
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FIELD



S. W. Eastman, Naisberry, Saskatchewan, cut his elite seed crop with a binder and used his neighbor's new combine as a thresher, in order to avoid contaminating the pure grain with a used machine.

Specialists Confer On 2,4-D

Conference recommends spraying at the right time, for a satisfactory weed kill

DURING the last three or four years we have all heard a great deal about chemical weed killers and, in particular, about the one called 2,4-D, for the sake of convenience. Its real name is a jawbreaker—2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid. Quite a number of these jawbreaking chemical compounds have appeared since 2,4-D was first recommended, and nearly all have names which sound queer to anyone but a chemist. Here is one, for example, called ammonium dinitro-sec-butylphenate. One of the fairly recent chemicals is a cousin, or some other relative, of 2,4-D and is called 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid. If we wanted to we could make quite a long list of long chemical names, but the chances are no one but the chemist and the research worker in weed control would care to remember them.

Most of us have learned now that there is a distinct difference between what are called the amine forms of 2,4-D and the ester forms. In general, the esters are quicker and more severe in action, but in both amines and esters there are several types, such as the alkanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropylamine, isopropanolamine, ethylamine, and diethanolamine among the amines, and the ethyl, alkyl, isopropyl, butyl and propyl esters. Altogether there were registered for sale in 1949, Canada, under the Pest Control Products Act, a total of 186 of these chemical plant killers, collectively known as herbicides. Of this total, 147 were 2,4-D commercial products and an additional 11 were mixtures of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T.

This big collection of hard-to-spell names of chemical products is a tribute to the tremendous impact which these new weed-killing chemicals have had upon agriculture in western Canada since 1946. In this short time the acreage of crops treated with chemicals for weed control has grown to approximately 8.5 million acres in 1949, which is a truly remarkable development. This is more particularly true since many research workers and chemists believe this field is just opening up, and that the years to

come will see even more spectacular developments than we have yet witnessed. Moreover, there is still a very great deal to be learned about the chemicals we are now more or less familiar with; and the research workers and experimenters, as well as the commercial interests offering the products for sale, are keenly interested in bringing themselves up to date and checking their experiences with others at frequent intervals. This is why, two years ago at Regina, the first Western Canadian Weed Control Conference was held under the auspices of the National Weed Committee. Last year a second conference was held in Winnipeg, and in the middle of November this year, the third of such annual conferences took place in Edmonton. It was attended by 250 delegates representing nearly all of the commercial companies interested in this subject as well as by representatives of the provincial and Dominion departments of agriculture, the provincial universities and nearly all of the Dominion experimental farms and stations in the four western provinces.

One of the advantages of such conferences is that experimenters and other workers have been able to compare notes as to the effect of selective chemicals on different weeds and have been able to prepare a classification based on their past experiences. This, however, will be revised from year to year as more experience is gained. It has been ascertained already that under adverse conditions, such as the dry weather this year in much of the prairies, and also as the plants grow older, it is more difficult to kill even the most susceptible weeds with 2,4-D. Thus, nearly all the mustards, Russian pigweed, lamb's quarters and some others can be completely killed by a relatively low dosage, if treated at early growth stages. Others, such as chickweed, hare's ear mustard, tartary buckwheat, redroot pigweed, purslane, shepherd's purse and smartweed require a higher dosage, and when older, or growing under adverse conditions, may be resistant to 2,4-D. With some other annual weeds, such as wild buckwheat, barnyard grass,

stinking mayweed, wild oats and others, it is not practicable to kill them with 2,4-D.

These specimens of weeds are all annuals. There is a similar grouping into degrees of susceptibility among the biennials, such as sweet clover and the perennials such as field bindweed, Canada thistle and perennial sow thistle. The list is too long to be included here, but unfortunately it includes quite a long list of our worst perennial weeds, which seem to be resistant to 2,4-D.

THE conference this year recommended slightly higher dosages for 1950 than were recommended a year ago. In every case the amines need more acid per acre than the esters, and in every case, also, when applied on growing crops, the cereals will stand heavier dosages than flax. Details of the amounts per acre are important and are obtainable from the companies supplying the chemicals, or from any department of agriculture, university or experimental station.

What was emphasized very prominently at Edmonton this year was the importance of treating cereal crops at the right stage. Cereals should be treated when they have reached the three-leaf stage, or a height of about six inches; and until the early shot-blade stage chemicals can be applied without injury to the crops. Flax that has formed four to five leaves can be treated as soon as weed growth makes it advisable, but should not be treated after the early bud stage. Most reports seemed to indicate that where chemical weed killers are applied to growing crops at the right stage, a good kill or control of weeds (except those classed as resistant) should be secured and crop yields increased by one to six more bushels per acre. On the other hand, there is also good reason for believing that many men have suffered decreased crop yields after treatment, because spraying or dusting was done at the wrong time. Some fairly spectacular results were secured from work done at Brandon, Winnipeg and Morden, which showed that on barley, yields were cut by one-third if spraying was done before the crops were at least four inches high, and by nearly two-thirds when done in the shot-blade stage. With wheat, the results were not quite so spectacular, but were in general similar.

The chemical 2,4-D, of course, represents only one angle of the immense weed problem, though a very useful and important one. The control of weeds through tillage, the use of weed-free seed, the proper cleaning of seed and the development of adequate seed cleaning equipment and tillage implements are all as important as they ever were. New chemicals are constantly appearing on the market. A good promise is already in sight of a chemical for the control of couch grass, and there is even a suggestion that before long we may be able to control wild oats with chemicals. Many aspects of the weed problem which received a thorough going-over at Edmonton are worthy of special articles themselves, but these must be reserved for further issues. All those present, however, were so keen about the value of the Edmonton conference that they decided on another one next year at Saskatoon.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

75th ANNUAL STATEMENT Year ending 31st October, 1949

ASSETS

Deposits with and Notes of Bank of Canada.....	\$ 49,326,930.12
Notes of and Cheques on Other Banks.....	24,207,063.44
Other Cash and Deposits.....	9,182,411.94
Government and Municipal Securities (not exceeding market value).....	213,526,555.96
Other Bonds and Stocks (not exceeding market value).....	14,485,675.31
Call Loans (secured).....	6,070,783.76
TOTAL QUICK ASSETS.....	\$316,799,420.53
Commercial and Other Loans (after provision for bad and doubtful debts).....	187,107,243.36
Liabilities of Customers under Acceptances and Letters of Credit (as per contra).....	8,662,762.90
Bank Premises.....	6,372,376.56
Other Assets.....	98,766.23
	\$519,040,569.58

LIABILITIES

Deposits.....	\$490,510,614.05
Notes in Circulation.....	703,137.50
Acceptances and Letters of Credit Outstanding.....	8,662,762.90
Other Liabilities.....	160,832.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC.....	\$500,037,346.78
Dividends due Shareholders.....	212,188.88
Capital, Reserve and Undivided Profits.....	18,791,033.92
	\$519,040,569.58

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Profits for the year ended 31st October, 1949, after contributions to Staff Pension Fund and after making appropriations to Contingency Reserves out of which full provision for bad and doubtful debts has been made.....	\$ 2,110,075.15
Provision for depreciation of Bank Premises, Furniture and Equipment.....	315,820.07
	\$ 1,794,255.08
Provision for Dominion and Provincial Taxes.....	679,000.00
	\$ 1,115,255.08
Dividends at the rate of \$1.20 per share.....	840,000.00
Balance of Profits carried forward.....	\$ 275,255.08
Profit and Loss Balance 30th October, 1948.....	1,515,778.84
Profit and Loss Balance 31st October, 1949.....	\$ 1,791,033.92

RESERVE FUND

Balance at credit of account 31st October, 1949.....	\$ 10,000,000.00
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CAPITAL
\$7,000,000

RESERVE
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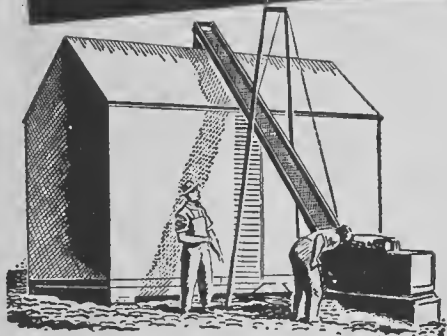
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Dry Years

Continued from page 10

In almost every area farming programs have been devised which will practically prevent soil drifting. In Southern Alberta where I reside, the following program has proved effective for dry-land grain farms. We say it windproofs the soil. If fallowing is practised, fields are stripped not wider than twenty rods. Fallows are cultivated only with long blade or wide-shovel cultivators. Discing implements, such as the one-way, are not used unless stubble is very heavy. Many farmers seldom or never use them. In the localities of good rainfall, oats are seeded on fallows in late July as a cover crop and used as fall pasture for cattle.

If, for any reason, insufficient cover is present to protect the soil through the fall, winter and spring, the field is given a light listing. This listing is done with a field cultivator equipped with listing shovels placed four feet apart, or with a one-way disc lister made by removing all but every third or fourth disc. If drifting starts in the winter the frozen soil is listed with this disc lister. If a field is in drifting condition before seeding in the spring it is plowed with a mouldboard plow immediately ahead of the drills. This program has proved effective over a wide area.

Some farms have been provided with added and effective protection by the planting of shelterbelts of trees and shrubs. Those like the group of farmers at Conquest, Saskatchewan, who have done such a fine job of protective shelterbelt planting, may well have an added feeling of security which those on the bare prairie do not possess.

An effective soil erosion control program can and should be worked out for every district. If this has not been done, and if the people have not been made fully familiar with it, the agricultural leadership in that district has failed in its duties. Every farmer could plan his farm operations so as to practically prevent erosion. Those who have done this are not afraid of the dry years.

WIND erosion was not the only difficulty encountered in the dry years. Feed and water for livestock was a serious problem. Will this be repeated in the next dry period? Undoubtedly short feed supplies will occur. The carrying capacity on the 43,400,000 acres of native prairie lands of Canada used for grazing will be greatly reduced. Hay crops will fail. This will likely force a reduction in cattle numbers, but the situation should never become as bad again as it was in the thirties. Community pastures developed by the P.F.R.A. and by provincial and municipal agencies will help the situation greatly, because careful management has been developed on these pastures, so that reserves of grass are maintained. Where possible, fields are set aside for winter grazing, which helps to add to the feed reserve.

In many parts of the prairies small irrigation projects have been constructed, which will produce hay in the dry years. Some of these which are dependent on the spring run-off of prairie land for filling the reservoirs,

may run short of water, but this should not be true for many years in succession. At least we should be able to depend on this source of feed for considerable relief. Then, these irrigated lands furnish an opportunity for building up feed reserves. A practice has developed on most ranches of stacking a reserve of hay in good years to meet emergencies. Many ranchers have four or more years of reserves. This practice of maintaining a feed bank is much more prevalent than it was a decade ago. It is not as general, however, as it should be, and consequently many people will find themselves short of feed to carry through a dry period.

Even now we are much more favorably situated than we were in the thirties. Stock-watering dams and dug-outs are scattered everywhere, due to the fine water development program of the P.F.R.A. People are water conscious. In this we have made vast strides. All in all, while the livestock industry could be seriously affected by a prolonged period of drought, this should not be as serious as it was the last time.

TO live successfully anywhere it is necessary to adapt our practices to prevailing conditions. In any business where returns fluctuate widely, only those succeed who keep reserves to carry them over the periods of low returns. Those who cannot do this should not attempt to operate a farming or ranching business where severe droughts may be expected. They should move to irrigated districts, or to localities having more consistent rainfall. Many who failed as dry-land farmers, while their neighbors succeeded, have been quite successful on irrigated lands where they did not have to be so provident to manage a less fluctuating income. Many who did not keep reserves were starved off their dry farms by the last drought period. The next one may show how many poor managers still remain.

In summary, then, may we say that if dry years come again we may expect low yields of grain or crop failures, a battle with drifting soils, and a reduction in feed for livestock. Surely the situation will not be as bad as it was in the thirties. If it is, it will be because of our gross neglect to do what we know we can do. If a calamity comes on us equal to that experienced in the thirties, it will be because of our sheer stupidity. We cannot blame it to our ignorance. If we persist in covering up our stubble with repeated use of the one-way rather than using blade machines, we will have bare fallows. If we insist on maintaining large blocks of bare fallow we must expect these fields to blow away. If we have stocked our ranges up to their carrying capacity for wet years, we will have to reduce our livestock numbers through a dry period; and if we are not maintaining feed reservoirs we will find ourselves short, and will have to sacrifice stock because we cannot carry them. The situation then seems to be largely in our own hands.

(NOTE: A. E. Palmer is superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station at Lethbridge, Alberta, and ranks as a foremost dry-farming authority in Canada.)



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A 30-year-old bull, or yellow pine grown by George Bugnet, Alta.

Northern Plant Breeder

A GREAT many people are interested in horticulture. Most are amateurs who are interested only in trees and satisfactory vegetable, fruit and flower gardens. Comparatively few are interested enough to test out uncertain varieties; they prefer to leave the hazards of this form of gardening to others with a larger bump of curiosity. Some are interested in horticulture only from a commercial point of view. If gardens and orchards can not be made profitable as a commercial venture their interest is much less. Some have combined personal interest with commercial possibilities and have developed nurseries, while here and there an individual makes a hobby of plant breeding, hoping to introduce eventually one or more useful plants of one kind or another.

Such a one is George Bugnet, Gunn, Alta. Mr. Bugnet is not a nurseryman and has no plants to sell, but he has a great interest in plant breeding. When he finds something new, evolving from a cross or a selection, he usually sends parts of it—roots, cuttings, scions, or seedlings—to a number of experimental stations, especially those farther north, for testing under a variety of conditions. "If the trial is satisfactory," he says, "the nurseryman may enter the field and distribute the new plant."

Although Mr. Bugnet has met with innumerable failures during his forty years of experience with plant improvement, he believes that he has to his credit many trees and shrubs unique in the west and perhaps elsewhere. One unique item for the prairies at least, which he reports as being under observation on his trial ground, consists of "some twenty quite healthy specimens which experts have declared to be too tender for the northern parts of Canada." This is the yellow or bull pine (*pinus ponderosa*), an important lumber tree in British Columbia, the wood of which is frequently used for packaging fruits from the famous orchards of the Okanagan Valley. Mr. Bugnet believes that it is possible to grow this pine in parts, at least, of the prairies, and that eventually it may become a source of wealth in these areas.

He is also quite proud of a hybrid of the Scotch pine. We are not informed as to the name of the other parent but he reports "a good many thirty-year-old giants of this magnificent pine." Seedlings tested on the Provincial Government Farm at Oliver

HORTI- CULTURE

are reported to have grown far more rapidly and vigorously than any other species of pine tested there. This pine too, he believes, has considerable possibilities for lumber in western Canada.

Years ago he produced the Claude Bugnet plum-sandcherry which resulted from a cross between a selected plum and a very early sandcherry. It was produced as a result of dissatisfaction with other stone fruits, either because of poor flavor, frost-tender blossoms or late maturity. The Claude Bugnet was selected because of its hardiness and the flavor of the fruit. He still hopes, though not very confidently, he says, to be able to produce a real apple for the northern parts of the prairies.

Rural School Grounds

IT is really regrettable that so many rural school grounds are allowed to remain so unattractive to pupils, teachers and passers-by. The appearance of some of them reflects but little credit on the parents and trustees of the school children. Children can scarcely be expected to find much pleasure in attending school, if no attempt is made to keep the building and its surroundings reasonably neat and attractive. Teachers can hardly be expected to do their best work and to do justice to their pupils, if they must meet them day after day in drab and uninteresting surroundings.

It would not take very much, after all, to brighten up those rural schools which happen to need it. It may at first cost a little money, as do all repairs of one kind or another, including fences. Whether additional measures taken to improve the school and its surroundings will cost much money or not, will depend on the people of the school district. A comparatively small contribution of work from everybody concerned would soon get it done.

Shelterbelts should be considered important and since trees are provided free of charge by the Forest Nursery Stations at Indian Head and Sutherland, Saskatchewan, there is very little excuse for not planting them. They should be located on the north and west; and to help to keep the snow off the playground during the winter, an outer row of caragana, close-planted and about 30 feet outside the shelterbelt, will serve as a snow trough.

Trees and shrubs are much easier to care for on the school grounds than flowers, because they take less labor. Even with flowers, however, some kinds could be selected which could bloom in the spring and early summer and others in the fall after school reopens. Assistance in choosing the types of trees, shrubs and flowers for planting is available from the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, from any other Dominion Experimental Farm or Station, or from the Horticultural Departments of the Provincial Universities. Very few dollars would make a great change in many of our country schools.

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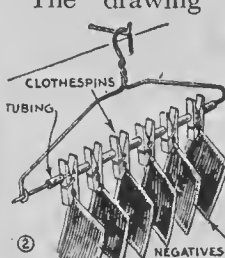
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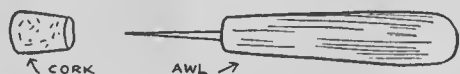
Things to make and do during cold weather

For Amateur Photographers

The drawing shows a negative drier and holder that is sure to come in handy in your dark room. The only items you need to make such a holder are some clothespins, pieces of small rubber tubing and a coat hanger.



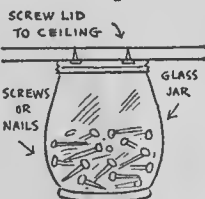
Safety First



When the awl is to be carried in a pocket or apron, place a cork over the end. This prevents damage to both the person and the awl.—J.M.

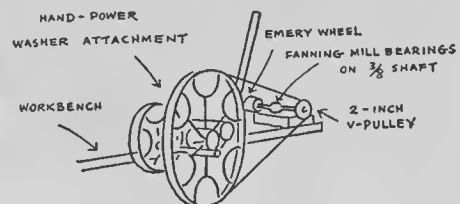
Jars For The Shop

This is not a new idea but there are probably many who do not know about it. Jars make very handy containers for small screws, nails, nuts and bolts. The lids should be fastened to an overhead beam or board and the jars can be taken down with one hand by reaching and giving them a slight turn.—C.K.



Inexpensive Bench Grinder

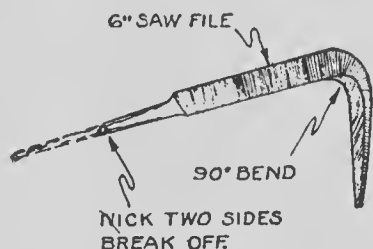
Anyone with an old crank-wheel from a hand washer can make a bench grinder like the one I made for my shop. A heavy flywheel is mounted on the same shaft as the crank-wheel to make it operate more



smoothly. Mount the grindstone on a three-eighths inch shaft which is supported by two fanning mill bearings. On the other end of the shaft, key a two-inch V-pulley and line it up with the large wheel. An old V-belt or piece of lacing may be used to transmit the power. The speed ratio will be about 48 to one.—J.C.S.

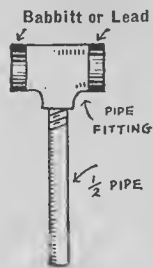
Set-Screw Wrench

Safety keys often become lost or are not supplied at all. For emergencies, one can be made from a three-sided tang by breaking it off at the desired size and bending the end in a vise. A more universal tool can be made by grinding both ends to



proper fits for two sizes of screw. Heat the ends to dull cherry red and quench them in oil to temper. Heat the file in the centre and bend to a right angle.—R.S.

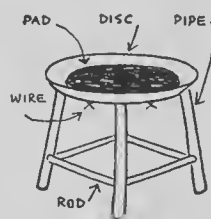
"Soft" Hammer Head



The hammer shown is made by pouring lead or babbitt into a "Tee" pipe fitting on the end of a short length of handle. To reduce the weight, scrap metal or other non-combustible material may be put in the "head" before the lead is poured. Wrap paper around the head to prevent the lead from spilling while it is being poured. This hammer will not mar the ends of steel shafts, etc., yet has the weight to deliver a powerful blow.—W.F.S.

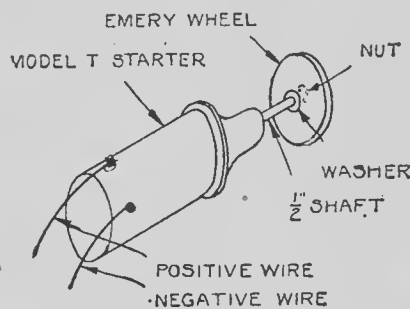
Milk Stool

A comfortable and sturdy milk stool can be made by welding legs to disc blade. I used three-quarter inch pipe for legs and half-inch rod for leg braces. A piece of sweat pad fastened in the centre of the disc with short pieces of wire makes the stool warm and comfortable.—E.T.



32-Volt Motor

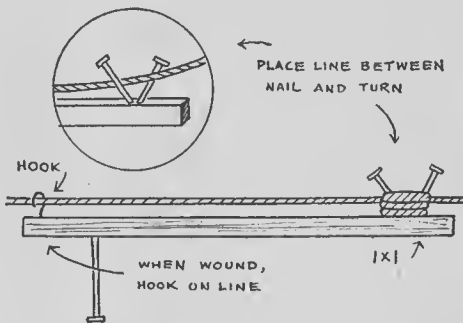
A six-volt starter from a car can be used as a motor and driven by a 32-volt plant by placing a rheostat in the



circuit and setting it for about eight volts and 100 amperes. If the power is supplied by a motor-driven generator or welder, the speed of the motor can be cut down. Thread the shaft of the starter and weld a washer on it two and one-quarter inches from the end. An emery wheel, saw or buffer can be tightened on the shaft and makes a handy power tool. Most starter shafts are half an inch in diameter.—E.A.J.

Clothes Line Tightener

Drive two nails in a short piece of scrap lumber so they are spaced about one inch apart and slant away from



each other. The board can be one by two or two by two inches. In the other end and on the same side, put a screw hook or a small nail bent over to act as a hook. Drive a large spike into the bottom of the board. To tighten the line, it is placed between the slanted nails and the board is cranked around. To hold it in place, merely catch the hook on the line.—M.K.V.

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FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



Students at the School of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, learn some important points in showmanship at their annual Little Royal.

Poultry Club Meeting

THE organization meeting of a poultry club at Herbert, Saskatchewan, had a new wrinkle. The meeting was held in the warehouse of an egg candling station. There were no chairs in evidence, and the ten juniors, ranging in age from 11 to 16, were seated on egg crates. Not only did this give the right atmosphere for a poultry club meeting, but those members who found their legs were too short to reach the floor could put their feet on the centre board that divided the cases.

Names Of Meats

IT IS often a matter of some curiosity that the meat from an animal is called what it is. The meat from cattle is called beef—a name which seems quite unrelated to a steer or heifer or cow. How did it come to get this name? Similarly why is the meat of a sheep called mutton, and the meat from a calf called veal?

The reason for this anomaly goes back nearly nine hundred years in history. The Anglo-Saxons called their animals cow, sheep and calf. However, when the Normans settled in England after their conquest of the country in 1066 the different meats that came to the lord's table were called by their French names. The word beef came from the French "boeuf;" mutton from "mouton," the French word for sheep; and veal from "veau," the French for calf.

Visit To Minnesota

CALVIN COOLIDGE, once president of the United States, said of 4-H clubs: "Probably no activity is of more importance to the future standing, prosperity and social position of agriculture than the boys' and girls' 4-H clubs. Their activities warrant the belief that they will greatly aid in the solution of many problems of rural life."

The four H's in American club work stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health, the idea being that they represent the four-fold training and development which club members undergo. The national 4-H club motto is "To make the best better."

Four-H club members are fairly frequent visitors to Canada. Our own

club members are not such frequent visitors to the United States. Recently, however, calf club members from Neepawa, Manitoba, chartered a bus and made the trip to the United States in order to attend the St. Paul, Minnesota, fair. During the week they took part in 4-H activities connected with the fair week and had an opportunity to pick up new ideas and to become acquainted with their American counterparts.

4-H'ers Studying Electricity

RURAL electrification is becoming so important that 4-H clubs in North Dakota will begin projects this fall which are designed to acquaint young people with electricity and electrical equipment, and to give members a chance to study electricity and to build or install electrical equipment as part of their regular club activities.

A project outline has been prepared which includes instructions for doing 10 jobs. Members who enroll in rural electrification are expected to complete at least four of these. The first two lessons include a study of electricity and simple wiring, and must be completed by all first year members. Other jobs may be selected from the lesson outline, or if the member wishes, he can select a course not listed in the outline, provided it requires a similar amount of work.

New Type Club

A NEW type of club has recently made its appearance in the Winnipeg area, according to a recent report from W. S. Frazer, Assistant Director, Extension Service, Manitoba Department of Agriculture. The purpose of this farm club is to help the members to identify and collect insects. It has been organized by the agricultural representative.

There is considered to be a particular place in the western scene for such a club. Some species of insects are of very great value to farmers, while others are a threat to crops. A good knowledge of the life histories and habits of different insects should be of value to a farmer in planning control measures, and in guiding him in his decisions as to which insects should be destroyed.

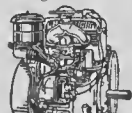
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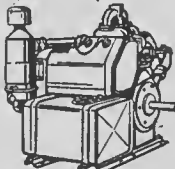
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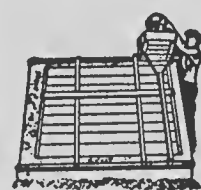
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1 CULL YOUR FLOCK —

An 80 egg hen will consume, on the average, almost 11 lbs. of feed for every dozen eggs she lays . . . but a 200 eggger will consume, on the average, less than 5 lbs. of feed for every dozen eggs she lays. Cull your pullets with care at housing time. Cull all old hens before putting them in laying houses.



2 FEED AMPLY AND CORRECTLY —

Keep a plentiful supply of Miracle Laying Mash before the birds at all times. If a hen's feed doesn't give her all she needs to make eggs, she draws on her tissues to make them . . . loses weight and strength. Miracle Laying Mash gives a hen everything necessary to make eggs, and at the same time keeps the hen healthy so she will lay faster and for a longer period.



3 CLEAN UP —

Unhealthy and dead birds are money losers. So clean your houses and every bit of equipment before moving birds in. Do a thorough job — sweep, scrape, scrub, scald, and disinfect. It's work . . . but it's worth it.



4 HOUSING PULLETS —

Disease may be spread among pullets by old stock that seems disease-free and yet is not. Always house pullets separately or sell off the old stock and start again with pullets only. Get your pullets into laying houses early, at about 5 to 6 months of age, according to their breed.



5 HOUSE BIRDS PROPERLY —

Crowding lessens the egg yield and causes the death rate to rise. Give your flock well-ventilated but draft-less houses, with adequate equipment, and sufficient floor, nest, roost, feeder, and waterer space.



6 WATER AND GRIT —

Plenty of fresh, clean water is essential — for heavier breeds at least 18 to 20 quarts per day per 100 birds. Never fail to keep a clean supply of oyster shells and granite grit before the birds always.



7 AVOID WASTE —

Feed amply . . . but avoid waste. Avoid waste caused by improperly constructed feeders or by filling feeders too full. Avoid waste in handling and storing. Avoid waste by rats and in all other ways possible. Be sure to make use of the last ounce in every sack.



"MIRACLE" LAYING MASH

OF-53

POULTRY



[V.L.A. Photo.]

Good feeding and management on the range make a good Christmas dinner on the table.

Keeping Good Layers

A NUMBER of poor layers in a flock will significantly reduce the net returns from the poultry project. For this reason it is not only important to cull the pullets very carefully when they go into the laying house, they should also be subjected to constant culling. Birds that are unhealthy, weak or slow in maturing should never have found their way into the poultry house, and the sooner they are taken out and marketed the better.

Birds that are not laying can be recognized fairly easily. They usually have shrivelled combs, in contrast with the full red combs of the layers. They do not lose the yellow color from their bills and shanks as do the layers. If they begin to lay and then stop the yellow color will appear again in the beak, and they may begin to moult their neck feathers.

Another good reason for handling the laying birds at least once a week is to determine their body condition. If they start to lose weight a little extra grain should be fed.

Ventilate Poultry Houses

YEARS ago I used to have trouble with colds among my birds. The beads of moisture on the walls and ceiling gave mute evidence of the trouble, but being new at the poultry game, I didn't pay attention to it. Yet it is one of the easiest troubles to correct because the symptoms are obvious. No amount of spraying and atomizing will take the place of proper ventilation. The birds prefer excessive dryness to humidity. Their natural habitat is the outdoors, so the closer the operator can approach nature in the housing, the less disease will his birds have.

The more you crowd, the more you should ventilate. Many poultry raisers make the mistake of crowding too many pullets into a limited space. They figure subsequent culling will bring the number down. This is a costly error because in many cases resistance is lowered and the birds suffer and so produce less eggs.

Many types of ventilation can be used to advantage. Perhaps the most simple is the open-type eave. Most shed roof houses use this type, as it is simple and easy to adjust; especially when hinged boards or slots are provided to regulate the air flow. Air chutes through the roof work well, as

do certain types of window installations. Whatever the type, it should keep the interior humidity the same as the outside, or as near to it as possible. This can, of course, be overdone. Cross ventilation, unless properly installed, can do more harm than good. Also, the currents should never be directed toward the floor, but should be upward, toward the ceiling.

Ventilation is always a major problem where the winters are cold and the springs are damp. At times it is almost impossible to keep the house dry no matter what system is used. With the deep litter method, this trouble has been reduced, but the wise poultryman will always be alert to the danger signals. Some poultrymen like straw for litter, others use sawdust or shavings, but all litters become damp soon if proper ventilation is not provided. However, it has been demonstrated that lime in the litter is beneficial because of its moisture absorbing qualities.

Be alert to the importance of proper ventilation. Poultry can stand quite a lot of cold, but very little dampness. The ideal poultry house is one which is properly insulated against any sudden change in temperature, but in which is incorporated a good ventilation system.—James Shoemaker.

Laying Flock Management

WHEN pullets are on the range they have an abundance of fresh air. When they are housed this is not the case, and unless care is exercised they are likely to develop colds. When they go in it is a good practice to leave the windows out of the house. They should not be exposed to draughts, however, and their quarters should be clean and dry. Dampness and a lack of fresh air are a threat to the health of a flock.

Colds and roup are frequently a result of a lack of Vitamin A. Poultry officials of the Alberta Department of Agriculture advise feeding fish oil three or four times each month from the time the poultry are housed until they have completed their laying year. One cup of fish oil for every hundred chickens is sufficient if fed each evening for four or five feeds and repeated each month. The oil can be fed conveniently if the grain for the night feeding is warmed and warmed oil is poured over it and the two mixed and fed in a trough.

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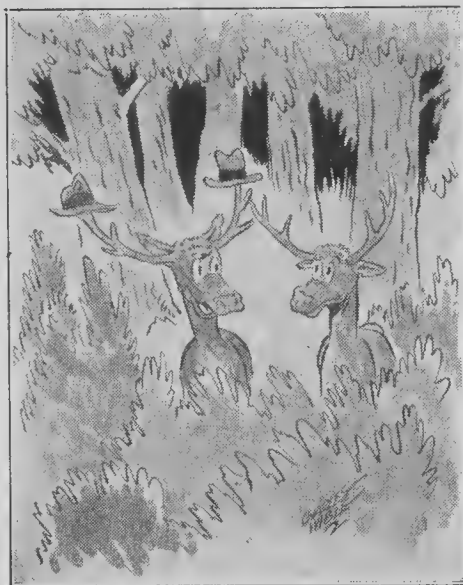


One Winter's Day

Continued from page 9

crunching through the snow and snapping many a twig and branch in passing. Gradually the noise faded away, the woodlands around the grouse becoming silent once again. Then a magpie advanced furtively from tree to tree, the scavenger bird finally swooping down upon the stiffening carcass of the porcupine.

NEXT moment the partridge launched out on sturdy wings, flying beyond the forest and across a farm field. The bird came to rest on the edge of a well-tracked road. For a long period the cock was watchful, head high and eyes busy. He saw a flock of redpolls feeding on the weed-heads beside the road; farther along, a northern shrike was perched on a



"I found them. Haven't been fired at all season!"

telephone wire uttering its briskly musical winter song. No enemies were near, while the road itself was entirely bare of traffic on this cold afternoon.

The ruffed grouse gave his feathers a momentary fluffing, feeling the bite of the sub-zero temperature. Then he walked up onto the crown of the road to search for gravel. Here and there the snow had been scuffed aside by a horse's hoof or a car tire, the grouse pecking at the sharp fragments of grit exposed at these spots.

When its need for gizzard-gravel had been satisfied, the grouse walked along the road in search of food. Often there was grain spilled along this farm highway, but today the bird could not find more than a few scattered kernels. So the partridge crossed the road ditch, skirting the fence line to feed on weed seeds clustered on withered stalks that rose above the snow. At this invasion of their feeding grounds the redpoll flock rose from the weed-heads, whistling their canary-like notes as they wheeled away.

A car came slowly along the road, its ancient frame rattling and engine chugging. The grouse squatted down against the snow, lowering its head warily. The driver of the car did not notice the bird, his attention being rivetted on the slippery road. But the partridge kept staring after the noisy vehicle, and thus missed seeing the foraging goshawk that came flying across the grain field.

Sighting game, the blunt-winged hawk banked sharply and darted downward. The rushing wing-noise warned the grouse. It dodged sideways just in time to avoid the extended talons, then thundered away at once.

The goshawk made a swift recovery from its swoop, whirling to pursue the fleeing partridge. And the blue-grey hawk was gaining rapidly, about to hurtle itself downward in a power dive at its intended victim when a flock of startled snowbirds rose from the field. One of the white birds was quite near the racing hawk. Instinctively the gos struck at it, its black talons closing on the quivering victim. Cackling its harsh victory cry, the goshawk went down to the snow's surface to feast on its warm prey.

FOR a short time after he reached the sanctuary of the woodlands, the grouse rested. It heard the quanking note of a nuthatch, a thin but penetrating cry that quested through the darkening woods. In a nearby hummock a red-backed vole or one of its mousy relatives rustled softly as it tunneled through the frozen moss. By this time the pale sun was low in the west. A flock of crossbills went undulating over the spruces, seeking a night haven, while from a dark ravine sounded the deep-toned hooting of a great horned owl.

The grouse was still hungry. He flew down to a nearby hollow where the faded red of rose-haws were outlined against the snow. Busily the bird feasted, stalking back and forth through the spiny briars and plucking off every seed-haw within reach.

Once again the owl-hoot sounded, closer and more menacing. Far across the hills the wavering call of a coyote rose and fell. And from a farmyard a man's voice, faint with distance, called: "Co-boss! Co-boss! Co-boss!"

Pecking a last haw and gulping it down into its bulging crop, the grouse flew up to a poplar branch and sharply scrutinized the shadowy forest nearby. The woods were silent, now, except for another long drawn howl from the faraway coyote. The night wind sighed through the spruces, then the first star of evening twinkled large and bright in the deepening blue of the sky.

Satisfied that no hostile eyes were watching, the ruffed grouse dived off its perch and swooped downwards towards a snowdrift. Straight into the grey-shadowed snow the bird plunged, the momentum of its dive carrying him down into a drift a distance of two feet. The bird pushed its compact body a little farther, then made a sideways turn. There the partridge turned around again and again, creating a little room off to one side of the entrance tunnel. Then the cock settled down, securely shut away from the stinging bite of the wind.

Next moment, the grouse was asleep. A winter's day had ended.



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● This feature is furnished monthly by United Grain Growers Limited

MONTHLY

United Grain Growers Limited In Strong Position

A very successful year and a strong financial position for United Grain Growers Limited were shown by the annual reports presented by President J. E. Brownlee to the annual meeting in Winnipeg on November 9 and 10. Profit for the year was \$518,710, after all charges, and after appropriating \$360,000 for patronage dividend on grain deliveries during the year. The regular dividend of five per cent on Capital Stock was provided to the amount of over \$200,000.



J. E. Brownlee, K.C.
President
General Reserve was increased to \$2,000,000, and Earned Surplus was carried forward in an amount of over \$1,000,000. The number of shareholders was increased during the year and is now more than 42,000, holding more than \$4,000,000 in Capital Stock. That investment is reinforced by reserves and surplus so that their total equity in the Company is now over \$7,300,000.

Grain deliveries during the year were the largest in the Company's history.

Mr. Brownlee pointed out that the year marked the culmination of a program of expansion of the Company's facilities and strengthening of its finances, which has engaged the attention of the Board for some years past. Part of that program had been expansion of the country elevator system which had taken place during the previous year when 110 elevators had been bought from the Reliance Grain Company and five from Anderson Grain Company. An increase of approximately 20 per cent brought the number of country elevators to 625. Results of that expansion, reflected in increased volume of grain handled, had been very satisfactory. The Company's terminals at Port Arthur and at Vancouver had operated to capacity during a considerable portion of the year.

Another part of the program had been extensive expenditures on improvement of facilities, on which more than \$1,000,000 had been spent during the year under review.

To balance expenditures on new elevators and on improvements, a program for expanding the Company's financial resources had been under way. Factors in this were increased borrowing on bonds during the previous year; addition of almost \$1,000,000 during two years to the issued Capital Stock; additions to reserve and surplus and also the establishment of a revolving fund in connection with patronage dividends.

The four retiring Directors were re-elected by acclamation: Messrs. J. J. MacLellan, Purple Springs, Alberta; S. S. Sears, Nanton, Alberta; H. W. Allen, Hualien, Alberta, and R. Shannon, Grandora, Saskatchewan. Subsequently, the Board re-elected J.

E. Brownlee, K.C., as president; R. C. Brown of Winnipeg, as first vice-president, and J. Harvey Lane of Fillmore, Saskatchewan, as second vice-president. The Executive Committee consists of the foregoing, Mr. J. J. MacLellan and Mr. E. E. Bayne of Winnipeg. Other Directors continuing in office are: J. Stevens, Morinville, Alberta; S. Loptson, Bredenbury, Saskatchewan; J. D. MacFarlane, Ayls-ham, Saskatchewan, and R. M. Wilson, of Gladstone, Manitoba.

Four resolutions submitted by the Board of Directors were approved. One was for an increase in the Company's authorized capital from \$5,000,000 to \$7,500,000, in order to put the Company in a position to meet future demands that may arise, or to take advantage of opportunities for expansion. One was for some changes in the employees' retirement plan. Another Board resolution embodied a protest against efforts now being made to increase the "Crow's Nest" freight rates on grain and authorizing a submission in this connection to the Royal Commission on Transportation. Another resolution called upon the Government of Canada to take all possible steps to avoid the calamitous results which would ensue from suggested cuts in British purchases of Canadian agricultural products.

The meeting heard addresses from J. Vallance of the Board of Grain Commissioners and W. C. McNamara, Assistant Chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Thursday afternoon developed an interesting discussion on resolutions submitted by locals dealing with grain marketing problems with expression of conflicting opinions in connection with coarse grains. A resolution was rejected which called for an interim payment by the Wheat Board on oats and barley, on the ground that this would add to expense of operation. Also rejected was one calling for compulsory marketing of flax and rye. A resolution was carried asking that in selling oats and barley, farmers be given the choice between selling individually and delivering to the Canadian Wheat Board. A resolution calling for protein grading of wheat was lost and one was carried requesting the Board of Directors to consult the Board of Grain Commissioners on the problem of degrading wheat on account of undue percentage of broken kernels.

An interesting feature was the high percentage of delegates who had not previously attended an annual meeting.

The Board's report reviewed at length national and international developments bearing on grain marketing, as well as details of the Company's business. Copies of the report have gone to all shareholders, and copies are available to others on application to any office or elevator of the Company.

Wheat Agreement Developments

Latest developments in connection with the International Wheat Agreement is a rejection by the Council of requests from Japan and Western Germany to be included therein.

COMMENTARY

Japan had applied for an import quota for 44 million bushels annually and Western Germany for one of 55 million bushels. These applications are said to have been supported by the United States. They were opposed, however, by Great Britain, at least for the present, and final action was accordingly postponed until a later meeting of the international council.

Great Britain is understood to fear that if Japan became a large importer under the agreement, it would mean diversion to that country of Australian wheat which Britain wants to buy at the maximum price stipulated in the agreement, paying for it in sterling. Japan, of course, is free to buy wheat at the present time provided she can pay for it, but if she does, she cannot claim it from Australia, Canada or Great Britain at the maximum agreement price, now \$1.98 in Canadian funds. Presumably she would have to pay the world price, now about 40 cents per bushel higher. Were Japan admitted to the agreement, she could take so large a part of the quantity which Australia is bound to supply that practically none would be left for Great Britain to buy.

Reasons for excluding Western Germany are not quite so clear. Presumably purchases for any European country would come from North America and there would be no difficulty in stepping up the quantities to be furnished by Canada and the United States if these countries were willing. It is believed, however, that Great Britain hopes to persuade Argentina to adhere to the agreement as an exporting country, finding that preferable to seeing Canada and the United States committed to larger annual exports to participating importers.

Argentina formerly refused to participate on the ground that the range of prices offered was too low. Under present conditions, with the world market price running well above agreement levels, and with markets available outside of the agreement, Argentina might not find it very tempting to join. On the other hand, it is thought that she might yield to British pressure in this connection. Britain could point out that in the future she might be glad to switch purchases from North America to Argentina, if the latter country is willing to sell at agreement prices.

There appeared to have been no complaints when, following the recent devaluation of the Canadian dollar, the maximum agreement price was advanced from \$1.80 per bushel to \$1.98. Customers abroad buying North American wheat would hardly be conscious of the difference because, even when they buy Canadian wheat, they make settlement in terms of United States dollars.

Eastern Pressure In Connection With Barley

When on August 1 of this year, the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Wheat Board, took over responsibility for marketing oats and barley, there were many predictions that this would lead to political pressure from eastern interests on the Canadian Wheat Board for lower prices for feed grain. There were few, however, who thought that trouble would develop as soon as has hap-

pened. On November 16 a meeting to consider feed grain supplies and prices was held at Toronto. This was at the instance of the eastern farm organizations. It was not officially a meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, although the Federation arranged it.

Primarily the meeting resulted from the current price of barley which has been held at high levels because of a demand from the United States for malting barley.

The meeting was a closed one, but subsequently a resolution passed was made public as follows:

"That, owing to the apparent overall inadequacy of supply of feed grains, the meeting feels it is in duty bound to draw the attention of the federal and various provincial ministers of agriculture to the situation; with a strong recommendation for some action to make adequate supplies of feed grains available to the livestock industry at prices within the reach of livestock feeders."

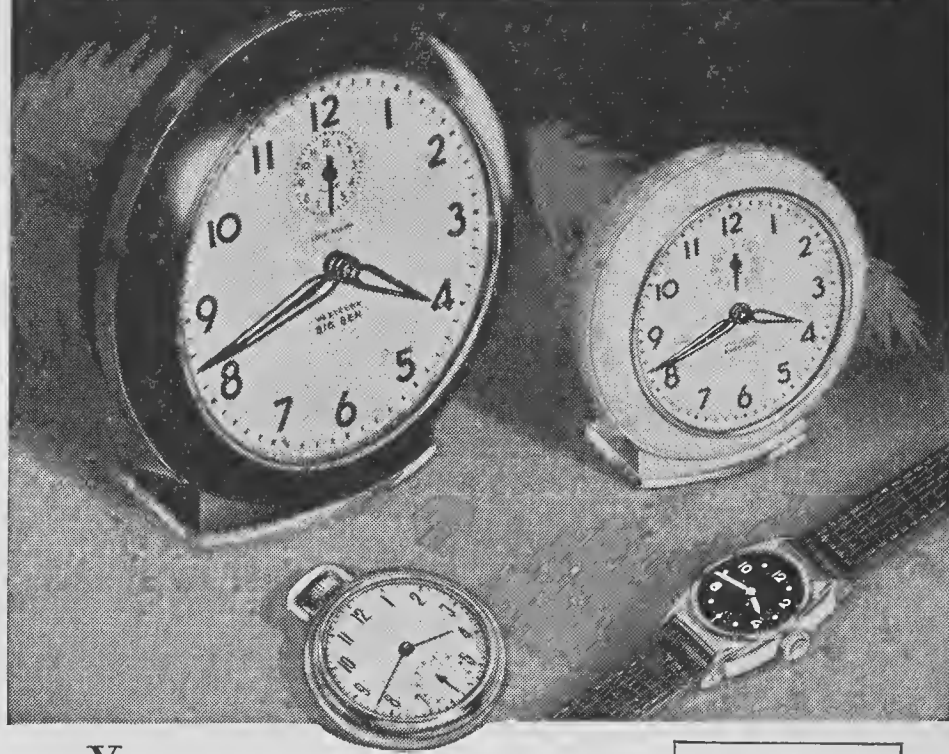
The official press statement also contained the following:

"The American malting industry, for years a heavy purchaser of Canadian barley, has been buying barley this year to the same extent as in previous years, leaving the burden of shortage on the feed industry. The eastern crop of coarse grains also is regrettably short this year."

Actually there has been no shortage of barley for feeding as some millions of bushels are in store in eastern terminals and a further considerable supply in store at the lakehead. The prevailing price, however, has been a matter of complaint, and, as a result, a good deal of corn from the United States has been imported into Ontario, where it is considered cheaper feed than barley. However, there is no government payment of freight on grain from the United States such as applies to feed grain shipped from the lakehead to eastern destinations. This difficulty can be overcome in Ontario and Quebec but in the Maritimes it is claimed that freight costs make corn too expensive. The eastern resolution, above quoted, does not make clear just what government action is desired. Obviously, provincial governments could do nothing to comply with the request made, unless they should undertake to purchase feed grain at present market prices and re-sell it at a lower level. When, however, the resolution is presented at Ottawa, it may well be interpreted as meaning that the Canadian Wheat Board should shut off sale of malting barley to the United States, and instead sell such barley at feed grain prices for use by eastern feeders. That would correspond with the policy actually applied not very long ago.

Western barley growers would, of course, object vigorously to any such restraint on their income. The official western point of view has been that the Wheat Board should make its sales at the best available price, whether in the domestic or the export market. The Minister of Trade and Commerce recently made it clear that for the present the Wheat Board has been directed to follow such a policy, although there is no government commitment that it will be continued indefinitely.

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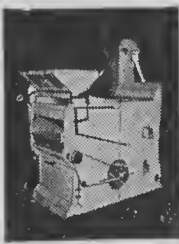
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Mistletoe For Xmas

A pagan emblem for a Christmas festival, but it provides fun we should not give up



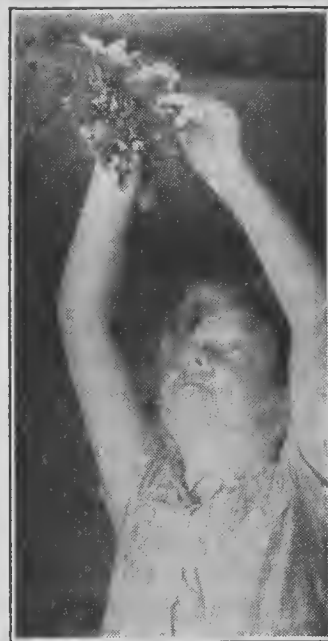
Gathering the mistletoe crop.

THE mistletoe has long been a symbol of Christmastide, both in this country and in Europe. Its use was known to the Scandinavians hundreds of years ago, and the ancient Druids of England used it in their pagan ceremonies long before the Christian era. In modern times, it is still one of our favorite Christmas decorations, though its use nowadays is merely decorative or festive, and has no religious significance. The American mistletoes are not the same species as that which grows in Britain and in Europe, but are very similar.

All the mistletoes are parasitic plants, and draw their sustenance from the sap of the trees upon which they establish themselves. High up in the branches of the trees the plants are found, and while there are trees that bear a few plants each in the territory from the Ozarks of Missouri and Arkansas southward, it is in California that the mistletoe grows most abundantly. There the commercial mistletoe is gathered and sold each year, and which is shipped to all cities of the U.S. to be sold on the market, a sprig wrapped in cellophane, and which small, withered spray brings a quarter or more.

The mistletoe is a small plant, seldom over a foot or two in length, with waxy, white berries sitting among its thick, evergreen leaves and stems. It is by means of the seeds from these berries that the plant spreads. The seeds are covered with a sticky, tenacious sap; birds eat the berries, and

by
PAUL
HADLEY



the seeds often stick to their bills. Wiping their bills on the branch of a tree, the seeds stick to the bark of the branch, and germinate. Tiny rootlets work their way through the bark into the sapwood underneath, and the plant is established. As each year passes, the plant grows larger, and the wood of the mistletoe mingles so perfectly with that of the host tree that it is impossible to separate them. At the point of juncture, the branch of the tree is often double or triple the diameter that it is elsewhere, the surplus wood being of the mistletoe.

A few plants of the mistletoe, such as are usually found in the sycamore or black gum trees in the Ozarks, do the tree no harm. But in California and other western states, where the mistletoe is often so abundant that in



Close-up of mistletoe plant growth. The extra girth is nearly all mistletoe wood. The mistletoe shoots are about a foot long.

midwinter, with the trees' own leaves all fallen, they look as though in full foliage. The tree often is killed by the inroads made upon it by this Christmas parasite. This tendency of the plant to steal the tree's sap for its own uses has given it one of its nicknames, the "Tree Thief." Of course, when the tree dies, the mistletoe dies also, thereby committing suicide by its own greediness.

Holly Farms In B.C.

A horticultural specialty which depends on the Xmas market

by VERA L. DAYE

TO most of us in Canada, Christmas is a season associated with snow, and crisp frosty days, with wreaths of greening and mistletoe and holly gleaming in every lighted window.

Strange then, that the emblem we like to think especially suggestive of the holiday spirit—the shiny, green-leaved holly, is not at home among ice

and snow, but rather, prefers the warm, mild climate of British Columbia, where winter as the rest of Canada knows it, neglects to put in an appearance.

If you live on Vancouver Island or on the mainland, you won't travel far or spend much to obtain an armful of the prickly-leaved plant. But if your home is in central or eastern Canada,

you'll be glad enough to own even a sprig for your coat. As the distance from its home increases, so does the price of the holly. You count yourself lucky indeed, if you have friends in the western province to whom you can write and say, "a box of holly, please."

Because of the soft, mild climate of Vancouver Island, holly grows profusely throughout its length. It grows well on the mainland of British Columbia too, although it never ventures more than 40 miles inland from the Pacific. Beyond that, the trees cannot survive the cold weather.

Holly farming is a business on a large scale. Indeed, it is a major crop for many growers. Victoria alone annually despatches shipments worth at least \$15,000.

Somewhat in the fashion of southerners, the Island farmers call their holly growing areas plantations. Most of these are in the vicinity of Victoria, Nanaimo, Mill Bay and Duncan. Some of the capital city's streets are even lined with the beautiful holly trees. They reach a height of almost 30 feet and have pointed, pyramidal tops. In the winter season when the berries redden in clusters amid the glossy green leaves, they are truly Christmas trees.

The holly tree is not native to Canada. Most of it originated in Holland and France but came with the early settlers from England who brought seeds and small trees 60 and 70 years ago. They even sailed all the way around Cape Horn in wooden sailing ships with their precious cargo. From the gardens these pioneers planted the trees grew and flourished. This species of holly has prickly leaves clear from the lower limbs to the top, unlike the more common variety which is prickly halfway up and then smooth to the top.

A TYPICAL holly plantation may have two or three acres under cultivation, with 500 trees of varying age and size. The trees are planted about 10 feet apart to allow room for growth and cultivation. Holly trees are slow growers and cannot be cut commercially to any advantage until they are at least 12 to 15 years old. But they live to a great age. In England, some trees are 200 and 300 years old, but in British Columbia where the industry is still young, the oldest trees boast little more than half a century of age. A tree forty feet high and 60 years old will annually produce about 200 pounds of cuttable holly.

Holly wood is white and hard. In Europe it is prized for cabinet making, turning and inlaying. It may be propagated in one of several ways, by seed, cuttings, layerings, or budding

and grafting. Planting the trees from seed is a slow process, for they do not germinate until the second year. They need a tremendous amount of nourishment and must be regularly fertilized for proper growth.

Even after he has his trees planted, and growing, the holly farmer is not free from worry. As with other farmers, he has to combat many insects. One of the worst is the deadly leaf miner, which lays its eggs in the mid-rib of a leaf. As the maggot hatches, it tunnels through the leaf and causes unsightly blemishes. The holly bud moth is another worry. However, with increased knowledge the chemist has come to the holly growers' rescue with effective nicotine sulphate sprays which keep these pests under control.

You might be surprised to know the bright red holly berries are only to be found on the female holly trees. The male trees, of which there will only be a few in an orchard, stand there for the sole purpose of fertilization.

THE holly berries are green at first and assume their brilliant red coloring in late October or early November. Cutting for the Christmas trade begins usually about the first of December. In an ordinary private garden, the owner will cut his own holly, snipping off the best twigs while trying not to disturb the beautifully rounded lines of his trees. In the plantations, the cutters work from high ladders, and pass the branches and twigs to assistants on the ground. The cutters wear rubber gloves, not only to protect their hands from the needle-sharp points of the holly leaves, but also to avoid bruising them. These men must know their business, for they must pry in between the heavy foliage and cut only the previous season's growth. The new shoots are left unharmed for next season's growth. So you will see the tree is not stripped.

After picking, the holly is packed in 25-pound cartons and left in the open air until shipping time. As it travels to the various markets throughout Canada, it must be kept between 30 and 40°F. Too much cold air and frost will damage the berries, and too much heat dries out the glossy leaves. For long trips the holly is packed in special cedar boxes for preservation.

Street stands in British Columbia cities sell holly in various sized boxes for shipment to friends in the East. Boxes are frost resistant and run from 60 cents a small one, to \$1.75 for a good-sized carton.

So whether you buy a perky sprig for your coat, or an armful for your your mantel, you'll know it came from one of our own Canadian plantations.

British Columbia workers packing holly for an express shipment which, it is hoped, will run to a value of \$15,000. Growers are anticipating a price of 50 cents a pound this year. Most of the commercial holly comes from Vancouver Island, although there are holly farms in the lower Fraser Valley, principally at Hatzic and Ladner.



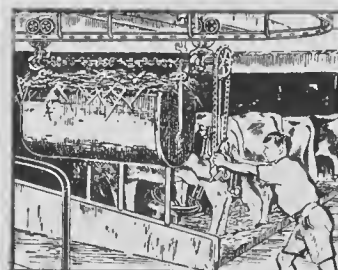
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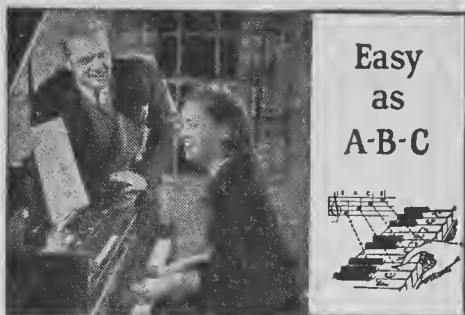
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Little Christmas

Continued from page 7

not Cecily's, but she finally managed to enter a smaller one.

Margaret recalled again the first year that Cecily had taken over the trimming of the tree. For some reason she had not connected it before, but she realized now it had been on that Christmas that Penny had been so very difficult. Henry had been annoyed to the point of sharpness, and Margaret herself had been mystified and hurt.

Now, suddenly she wondered if it could have been on account of the tree. Penny had always been the one to bring down the ornaments from the attic and had always insisted upon climbing the ladder to fasten the star on top.

MARGARET eyed the small fir upon the table, decked in skillfully devised paper rosettes, behind which all the tiny lights showed purple. It was, one had to admit, artistic and original, but it did not look like Christmas. Margaret went over to it now, almost wrathfully. She took off the rosettes and put them in the waste basket. She put away the lights, then lifted the tree and threw it out the back door.

Once started upon her work it was amazing how rapidly it went. She went to the attic for the boxes which contained the creche and the figures. Then, slowly and tenderly, she arranged them as they always used to be.

She stood back and surveyed the room. It was beautiful! Tonight she would light the candles, and have a fire, and do all the things she always wanted to do at Christmas. Perhaps in the very doing of them she might find some sort of refreshment and wisdom to take up again tomorrow the cares that lay upon her heart.

She glanced toward the corner where the big tree had always stood. It was silly for her to want it there again tonight, but she did.

If she could but have it, clothed in its old ornaments, with the toys underneath which the children had always placed there, it would be like reliving those happy days when Christmas had been pure joy.

Margaret thought intently. Next door lived the Dyers. Their children were small and their tree was large. Margaret did not delay, lest reason and decorum should overcome her. She caught up a coat and went next door. Little Mrs. Dyer was just dismantling the tree.

"Are you planning to do anything with it?" Margaret asked after the first amenities were passed.

"It's a problem, isn't it?" Mrs. Dyer said. "I think I'll just throw it out in the backyard for the present."

"Would you give it to me?" Margaret tried to sound casual. "You see, I've a silly notion to try a little experiment in decorating — before another Christmas, you know—and our tree this year is too small to work on."

It didn't sound too fantastic as she had put it, Margaret hoped. Mrs. Dyer agreed with relief.

Margaret thought of her young neighbor as she went back home. She was the kind of a girl she hoped Hank would marry some day. So bright and gay and modern, yet such a fine

mother and homemaker. Would Hank choose wisely? Would he wait until he really knew what he wanted?

This girl he had taken out during the holidays was so pert, so sure of herself, so ultra-sophisticated. Her eyes looked hard and calculating and there was a brittle note in her laughter.

It worried Margaret terribly. Hank hadn't gone all out for a girl before. He had always "played the field," as the boys called it. Now what if the superficial glitter of this girl had really caught him? And she was all wrong for him, Margaret knew instinctively.

Above everything else she had always prayed that her children might have happiness and lifelong contentment with their loves, as she and Henry had had. At this point her heart seemed to turn over twice, as she thought of Cecily and Bill, for that, of course, was the most acute pain.

SHE was scarcely home before the oldest Dyer boy brought in the tree. She did not hurry. Indeed she loitered as she trimmed the tree, stopping often to hold the oldest baubles in her hand. The fruit, for instance—the red apple, the golden peach, the



"I think John is beginning to need glasses!"

bright green pear. The children had particularly loved these for some reason. There was the little silver trumpet too, and the pink wax rose, the bluebird, and the angel. These, also, had had special significance.

At last there was nothing but the star that went on the very top. She thought of Penny, who had always begged to hang the star.

Penny their strange, inscrutable daughter, who was flunking two subjects this first semester!

She just didn't seem to care. When she got home they had discussed it with her, but as usual could get nothing out of her. She had only mentioned casually that she had broken a swimming record. This to Henry had been the last straw.

"A swimming record!" He had all but yelled it. "Do you think we're paying fourteen hundred dollars a year for you to go swimming? Now, this nonsense has to stop! You've got to get down to work!"

Penny had said nothing, and gone up to her room. And now, what if she really flunked out of college? What was to be done about Penny?

She had always been dependable in other ways; Cecily often forgot things. It was Penny, silent and undemonstrative, who was always there when needed.

It was Penny's gift which had pleased her mother most of all this year, a tiny bottle of the rare flower perfume which Margaret loved. It

must have eaten a big hole in Penny's allowance! It was plainly wrapped, with a small card bearing the words: "Merry Christmas to Mom from Penny."

Cecily's gift had been a bizarre green handbag which did not go with any single costume Margaret possessed. It was tied with yards of silver and gold ribbon, and the card read: "Oceans of love to the most wonderful mother in the world."

Margaret sighed. Before long she would know about Cecily and Bill. They had told her of what threatened, each in characteristic fashion.

"Mother, I can't believe it! It's simply too marvellous!" Cecily had begun when they were alone for a few minutes the day before Christmas.

Margaret was used to this introduction. It meant that some new success had come to Cecily.

"What is it, dear?" she asked eagerly.

"I've been offered the position of associate editor on the magazine!"

"Why Cecily! Oh, that's wonderful! Darling, I'm so proud of you!"

"What's up now?" Penny had inquired, coming into the room.

Margaret had repeated the news and Penny, without comment, had passed on.

Cecily went on: "Nobody knows how I've wished for this job! How I'll love it! And I know I can make a go of it only..."

"Only what?"

"Bill is being absolutely mulish about it."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, we had decided that I'd take time off this coming year to have a baby. With the new job I can't. I think Bill ought to be reasonable. There's plenty of time."

Cecily's lovely face had suddenly stiffened. A new note had come into her voice.

"I might as well tell you that this may be serious between us. He's just about issued an ultimatum, and nobody can do that to me."

"But darling, surely you can compromise somehow." She realized now, ashamed, that her immediate reaction had been that Cecily must not be thwarted in this, her crowning honor.

Cecily had turned away. "Maybe you can do something with him," she said, and all at once her voice sounded flat and tired. "You know he always listens to you."

Bill had followed her up to her room that night, where she was frantically wrapping the last packages. She had had such a hectic day, and even now the turkey stuffing had to be made before she slept. She loved Bill, and because he had no mother of his own, he had somehow taken her to his heart.

"We're in trouble, Mom, Cecily and I. It's bad."

"Oh, Bill, she told me. You mustn't let anything spoil your marriage. You must try to see each other's side of things."

"I needn't tell you how I love Cecily. You know that. But she's got to decide now what she wants."

"Bill, dear, she's young yet. She could take time off later..."

"Some girls could, but not Cecily. I know her even better than you. In a few years this magazine thing will be a tremendous job. There will never be any time in Cecily's life for having children and making a home for them."

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As a matter of fact," he added slowly, "there may not even be much place for me, if she goes ahead."

"Bill, don't say that!"

"I'm only facing facts. But one thing, Mom, you've got to believe. It's Cecily's happiness I'm thinking of, too, and not just my own. I've seen plenty of lonesome career women of forty-five."

"So have I."

"That's why I'm fighting with all I've got for both of us."

She had kissed him with her eyes full.

"All I want is for you both to be happy. But try your best to understand each other. I'll tell Cecily the same. And let me know as soon as it's all settled."

MARGARET gave a physical motion now of shaking the anxiety from her. No word had come from them yet. Whether the omen was good or ill, she did not know. She hurried through her solitary dinner, and then lighted the logs in the fireplace. Then she lit the candles, snapped the button which illuminated the tree, and sat down, a sense of peace stealing over her.

This one night was all hers in which to make up for what she had missed, and gird herself for all that was to come. She suddenly knew that the one of her children who would most enjoy this with her would be Penny. Even though she would say little, she would like it.

"I broke a swimming record. . . ." The sentence flashed into her mind. Those were the words which Penny had injected casually the day they had talked with her about her work. And except for Henry's sudden flare-up, they had passed the information by without comment in their concern over the studies.

She had broken a record. What record? They hadn't even asked.

All at once Margaret sat very straight. That had meant a lot to Penny. She had been laying her triumph before them in her own way, and they had ignored it.

Margaret saw it now with sudden insight: this was the very first triumph Penny had ever had. She had always loved to swim, but nobody had thought much about it. But now, she had broken a record!

Margaret rose with instant decision, went to the telephone and called Penny by long-distance.

"Hello, dear." Margaret knew she sounded nervous.

"Hi, Mom. Anything wrong?"

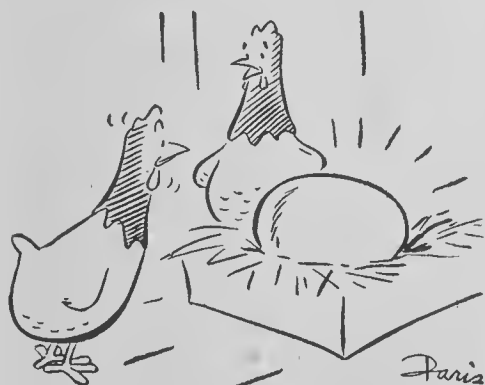
"Not a thing. Penny, I want to know about that record you broke in swimming."

"You what?"

"Tell me all about it."

"Oh, it wasn't anything much."

"Penny, please. What record was it?"



"I hadn't laid for several days. Then all of a sudden—"



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"Well," she could hear the faint note of pleasure that crept into Penny's voice, "you see the college here doesn't compete. We just have our own team. But of course we keep track of the records. And just before Christmas I busted the hundred yard free-style American women's Inter-collegiate!" she hurried through the words, but her mother could feel her excitement.

"Penny! Why that's simply tremendous! Weren't they thrilled at school?"

"Oh, they made sort of a fuss."

"Darling, I'm so proud of you I don't know what to do!"

There was a dead silence on the other end of the 'phone. Margaret went on.

"I WISH you were here tonight. I'm all alone, you know, so I'm celebrating what Anya used to call Little Christmas. Remember? I'm having everything just the way we used to when you were children. The creche and the figures are on the mantel, and I borrowed the Dyers' tree and put all the old trimmings on it."

"Mom, you did?" Her words were quick, incredulous.

"Yes. Does it seem crazy?"

"Is the bluebird on . . . and the rose?"

"Yes."

"And the fruit?"

"Everything."

"The peach was mine. I was always afraid Cecily would want it, but she picked the apple. The pear was Hank's. You . . . you didn't bring the toys down too, I suppose?"

"Yes, I did. The doll and the bear and the dog. They always had to be there. This year things were not just right. I wonder whether you know that Cecily and Bill . . ."

"Cecily's a darn fool. If I had as nice a husband as Bill I'd want to have his children."

"I'm sure you would, dear. I wish Cecily were more like you."

There was another breathless second of silence, and then came a strange, husky voice.

"Would . . . would you say that over?"

"I said," Margaret repeated distinctly, "that I wished Cecily were more like you."

"Mom . . ."

"Yes, dear."

"I'm awful glad you called up."

"So am I."

"Are you going to call Hank?"

"I hadn't thought of it."

"I believe he'd like to hear about the tree. And Mom, tell Dad I'll make up the work. It won't be too much trouble. I . . . I sort of feel different now, somehow. Sort of . . . happy!"

"I'll tell him darling. Lots of love. Goodbye."

MARGARET sat at the desk, her eyes wet. So many things seemed clear now. She put in the call for Hank. She doubted whether he would be greatly interested, but it would be good to hear his voice. When she told him rather apologetically what she had done, Hank didn't laugh.

"Have you got the trumpet on the tree?" he asked.

"Absolutely."

"And the pear?"

"Yes."

"Gosh, I remember how I always liked those best of anything. I had to fight Cecily for the trumpet, but I stuck it out."

"I brought the old toys down, too. You know, the favorites that you children always thought should enjoy Christmas with you."

"You did? Say, you're going sentimental in a big way, aren't you, Mom? I remember how Penny used to sneak them down and hide them behind the tree when we'd really outgrown them. Penny's a good kid."

"Yes, she certainly is," Margaret agreed with a catch in her throat. She told him about the swimming record. Hank was excited.

"No! Honest? Broke the hundred yard free-style? Why, that's big-time stuff, Mom. She never said a word."

"Write and congratulate her, Hank."

"You bet I will. Why, that's really tops. You know Penny really has a lot on the ball. Well, what else are you doing tonight, Mom, all by yourself?"



"Think of it! My great great grandfather crossed these plains with a covered wagon!"

"Oh, just things I didn't have time to do on the real Christmas. I like old-fashioned customs just"—she hesitated—"just as I like some old-fashioned qualities in girls."

"Yeah, I guess I do myself, when you come right down to it."

"They're likely to wear better in the long run, Hank."

"You can say that again!" There was a faint edge in his voice.

(He's beginning to find that girl out, Margaret thought. He's going to be safe after all.)

"Mom, I sort of like picturing the room the way it was when we were kids. Let's have it like that next year."

"We're going to, and now, good luck, dear. Goodbye."

Margaret went slowly back to the couch and sat down, a warm glow in her heart. Now for the evening. She had collected the selections she liked best of the seasonal literature. They were on the table beside her. They ranged from "The Night Before Christmas" to the Gospel according to St. Luke.

She smiled as she fingered the books. No matter if there were contrasts among her favorites, she would read them just the same. She would also play some carols.

"Mother and her everlasting carols!" Cecily used to say. "Don't you ever get tired of them?"

She put a fresh log on the fire and sat down again with a deep sigh of contentment. Even as she did so, there was a quick tap-tap on the knockers and the opening of the door. She knew at once that it must be Cecily and Bill. Cecily came into the room, her face white and set. Bill followed her, looking as if he hadn't slept for a week. Margaret knew what they had come to tell her. Now, tonight, this night!

But they were looking around the room in amazement.

"Well what on earth!" Cecily cried. "This is Twelfth Night," Margaret said. "Little Christmas. I wasn't satisfied with our Christmas this year, so I'm celebrating it again. I'm going right ahead with my plans, even though you are here."

Bill was over at the mantel, looking at the creche and figures.

Cecily was at the tree. Her mother couldn't see her face, but she saw her touching the various ornaments.

"Where's the apple?" she asked.

"Up there, higher, to the right."

"It and the angel were always mine," she said.

"What was that?" Bill asked.

"Nothing," said Cecily. Then she gave a quick exclamation.

"My heavens, you even brought down the old toys!"

Bill was beside her, now, peering under the shadow of the tree. Cecily picked up the doll, but suddenly put it down and turned away as though she had been guilty of folly.

Margaret spoke firmly. "I am now about to play and sing some carols, and then read my favorite Christmas selection. I ought to warn you."

BILL went over to the fireside chair and sank into it. His face under the table light was haggard and drawn. Cecily glanced quickly at him, then sat down on the couch. Her beautiful profile was still cold and bitterly set.

"I suppose we can take it," she said.

Margaret played and sang from memory, trying by tremendous effort to think of the familiar words, and not allow herself to break down under the

impact of the misery which hung over Cecily and Bill.

She moved from one old favorite into another, and at last she came to "Silent Night." As she sang, her heart all but broke in yearning over her children, sitting in the same room with her and yet so far away.

Bill was leaning forward now, his head in his hands; Cecily was sitting motionless, her eyes upon the tree. Once her mother saw her look at Bill and then glance quickly away.

Margaret rose and came back to her place. She tried to speak lightly.

"Now," she said, "I'm going to read my old favorites. You can still escape if you want to."

Neither spoke, so she began. She read "The Night Before Christmas." When she finished, she looked musingly at the burning logs.

"When the children were small, Bill, we always let them help trim the tree the afternoon before Christmas. Then after an early supper they came down in their pajamas and bathrobes and sat on the rug before the fire while I read them this poem. Do you remember, Cecily?"

"Of course," she said in an odd voice.

MARGARET picked up the next book. "Then when they grew older they still liked this Christmas Eve ritual, only we added bits from 'A Christmas Carol.' They loved the Cratchits best of all."

As she read from the worn book with its familiar markings she glanced up once or twice to look at the haggard young man and the stony-face young woman. She found their eyes

upon each other, Bill's anguished and beseeching; his wife's—but she couldn't see into Cecily's.

Something of the humble happiness of the Cratchits seemed to be released from the pages, and to hover about the room.

"Do you remember how you children always worried about Tiny Tim's fate each year, even though you knew he wasn't going to die?"

"I remember," said Cecily.

Margaret's throat felt tight.

"And now," she said, "I am going to read the sweetest story of them all."

She picked up the small black book beside her. Her voice was low and she read slowly.

And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

As she went on, she felt the weight of her own emotion overcoming her. Margaret knew she could never finish the chapter.

And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Her voice caught. She closed the book and laid it back upon the table. Silence filled the room. She was afraid to look up as the moments passed.

Then at last she sensed that Cecily had risen and gone over to Bill. Margaret raised her eyes then and saw her standing there, her cheeks wet with tears, her face bearing upon it the tender portent of the woman she would one day become.

"WE'VE got to go, Mother. Bill's awfully tired. He ought to get some rest. It's been swell being here tonight. And, Mother, put the toys away carefully. You can't tell what may happen before another year!"

When they had left, Margaret came back into the pine-scented, fire-warmed, candle-lit room, her heart melting with joy! New wisdom and understanding had come to her along with hope and relief. On this, the anniversary of the holy night when the Wise Men had come to worship the baby in the manger, her own children had been given back safe to her, safe from the perils which had threatened them.

They were all one now, as in the past, close and secure in the circle of love. If only Henry were here to rejoice with her, it would be complete.

She raised her head, thinking. She couldn't bear to have him shut out of the strange and wonderful happiness of this night. She could not telephone him, for this was the evening of the big banquet; but she could send him a wire!

A little smile played over her lips as she mentally framed it. She could picture Henry receiving it when he came back late to the hotel. He would be first startled, then as he read, puzzled. At last he would tuck it into his inner pocket with that familiar, half quizzical, half adoring expression in his eyes. He would be thinking "What's she been up to now?"

Margaret repeated the message three times before the operator got it.

"Merry Little Christmas, and all my love."

THE END.

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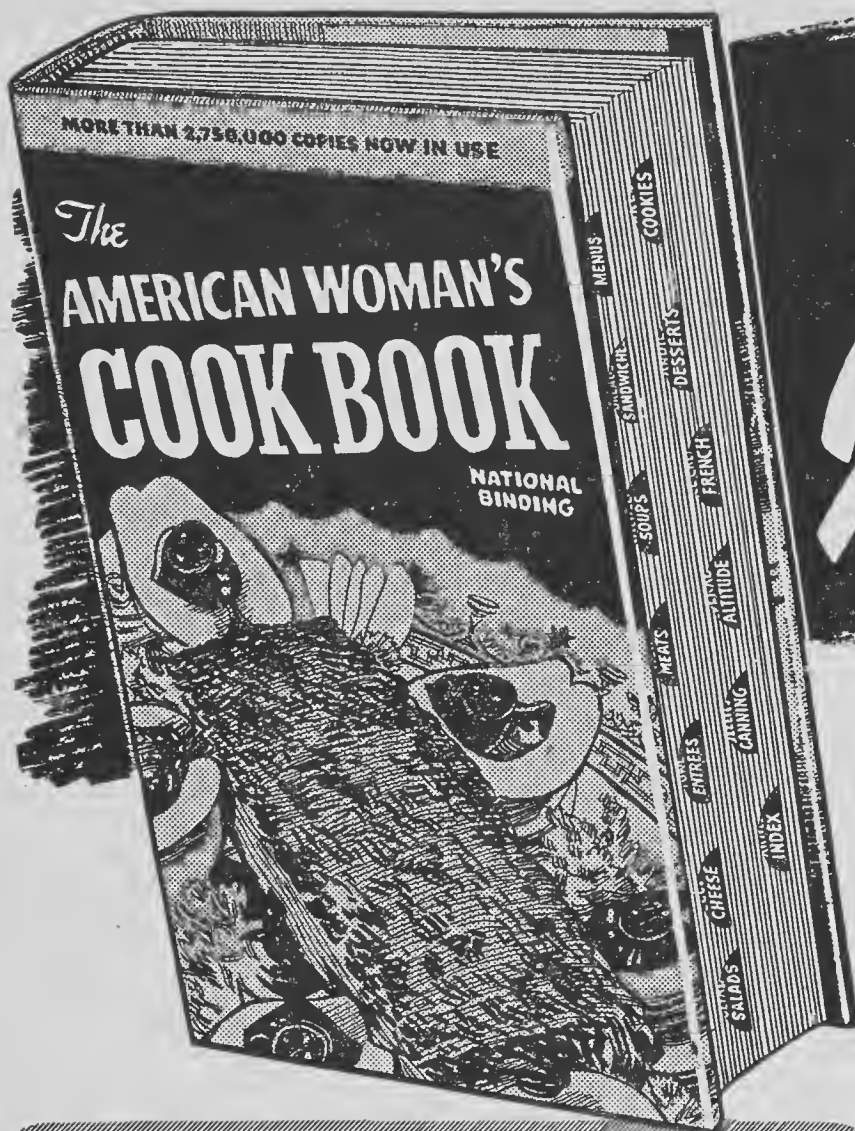
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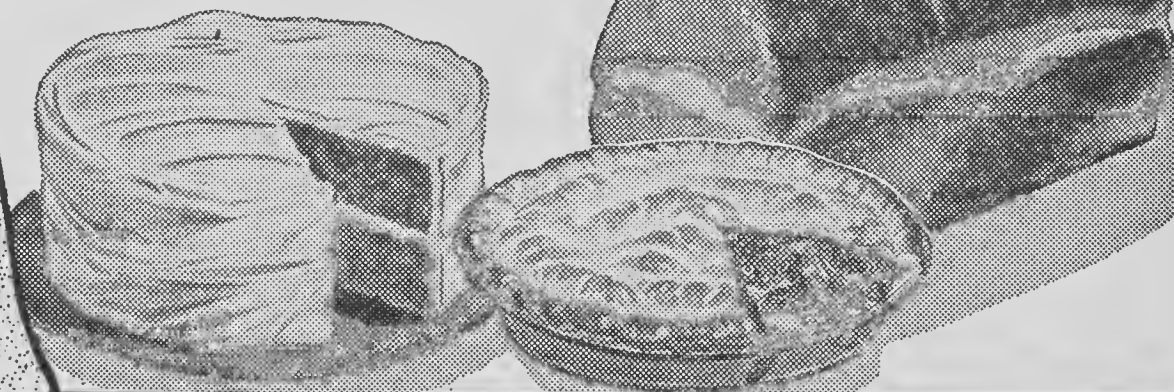


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The Countrywoman

OF all the old festivals, that of Christmas awakens the strongest and most heartfelt associations. There is a tone of solemn and sacred feeling that blends with our conviviality, and lifts the spirit to a state of hallowed and elevated enjoyment. The services of the church about this season are extremely tender and inspiring. They dwell on the beautiful story of the origin of our faith, and the pastoral scenes that accompanied its announcement. They gradually increase in fervor and pathos during the season of Advent, until they break forth in full jubilee on the morning that brought peace and goodwill to men. I do not know a grander effect of music on the moral feelings, than to hear the full choir and the pealing organ performing a Christmas anthem in a cathedral, filling every part of the vast pile with triumphant harmony.

It is a beautiful arrangement, also, derived from days of yore, that this festival, which commemorates the announcement of the religion of peace and love, has been made the season for gathering together of family connections, and drawing closer those bands of kindred hearts, which the cares and pleasures and sorrows of the world are continually operating to cast loose: of calling back the children of a family, who have launched forth in life, and wandered widely asunder, once more to assemble about the paternal hearth, that rallying place of the affections, there to grow young and loving again among the endearing mementos of childhood. . . .

In the depth of winter, when nature lies despoiled of every charm, and wrapped in her shroud of sheeted snow, we turn for our gratifications to moral sources. The dreariness and desolation of the landscape, the short, gloomy days and darksome nights, while they circumscribe our wanderings, shut in our feelings also rambling abroad, and make us more keenly disposed for the pleasure of the social circle. Our thoughts are more concentrated: our friendly sympathies more aroused. We feel more sensibly the charm of each other's society, and are brought more closely together by dependence on each other for enjoyment. Heart calleth unto heart; and we draw our pleasures from the deep wells of loving-kindness, which lie in the quiet recesses of our bosoms; and which, when resorted to, furnish forth the pure element of domestic felicity.—Washington Irving in Christmas at Bracebridge Hall.

Candle Light, Candle Bright

CANDLE light is popular with all ages, from the bright-eyed five-year-old blowing out his birthday candles to the grandmother, who remembers the time when candles were used to light her home.

The candles of today are very different articles from those made in grandmother's time. In pioneer days candles were made from beef tallow. The process was simple but slow. First of all a number of wicks were prepared from soft cotton string. Then they were placed in position in a candle mould. This mould consisted of a number of tall cylinders, often three or six in number, with a small hole in the bottom of each. The cylinders were held together by a connecting tin tray, which also served to catch the overflow of fat. The wicks were fastened to a knitting needle and so placed that each wick or cord hung in the centre of a single mould. The lower end of the string was tightly twisted and drawn through the hole at the bottom and then knotted. This later became the tip of the candle. Then the melted tallow was poured into the cylinders and the whole thing was set out-of-doors to harden.

These homemade candles smoked and flared if not snuffed frequently. For this task a snuffer was used, which was in shape like a pair of scissors, with a small container on one blade to catch the bits of charred wick. Modern candles need no snuffing for the chemists have devised ways of

Some thoughts concerning the manner and spirit of our observance of the Christmas festival

by AMY J. ROE

making them smokeless, odorless and dripless. Both the wax and the braided cotton wicks are chemically treated for each type of candle to suit its particular purpose. Today you can buy candles of almost any shade of color and size you wish. They may serve as ornaments on a shelf or mantel, or lighted, add grace to the tea or dining table.

A candle factory is truly a fascinating place. Here candles of every size and shape are turned out by the hundreds. One type is made by dipping wicks into wax. These are first hung on frames which are placed on a sort of merry-go-round. By means of a lever, one of the frames is lowered into a vat of melted wax and then raised again. The merry-go-round and another frame with its load of wicks is dipped. So it continues until all the wicks on all the frames have been dipped many times. Thus at last all the bare wicks have been transformed into full-sized candles, ready to

Christmas Carol



*The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young.*

*The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
And its soul full of music bursts forth on the air,
When the song of the angels is sung.*

*It is coming Old Earth, it is coming tonight!
On the snowflakes which cover thy sod.
The feet of the Christ Child fall gentle and white
And the voice of the Christ Child tells out with delight
That mankind are the children of God.*

*On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor,
The voice of the Christ Child shall fall;
And to every blind wanderer open the door
Of hope that he dared not to dream of before
With sunshine of welcome for all.*

*The feet of the humblest may walk in the field
Where the feet of the Holiest trod.
This, then, is the marvel to mortals revealed
When the Silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed,
That mankind are the children of God.*

—PHILLIPS BROOKS.

be sent out to the shops and from there into homes to give light and cheer.

If the candles are to be fancy ones, they are dipped into a dye bath and decorated in a number of ways. Candles of unusual shapes are made by pouring wax into specially shaped moulds. And what a variety of unusual shapes are shown today! Candles shaped like Christmas trees, plump Santa Claus, angels, flowers or fruit. The giant red Christmas candles are popular and last through the festive week. Gay, new candles seem to bring promise of warm cheer and happy holiday. They lend a festive air to a room and charm to a table set for a meal.

A stub of a candle is interesting too. In olden days a piece of the Christmas candle was kept for luck. It was regarded as a symbol of happy times already in memory's storehouse.—D. Morrison.

Reduce The Holiday Hazard

FEW people realize that the setting for the Christmas festivities affords a definite fire hazard. The decorations used are usually of flimsy and often highly inflammable material. The Christmas tree is a serious fire hazard as it will ignite easily, if dry. An open flame of a candle, gas, or a spark from a fireplace or stove, small children romping alone in a room or inquisitively reaching for a

candle, a defective piece of electrical equipment may be the cause of a blaze. The death of a child or a home burned to the ground seems doubly tragic at this season. Let us take every possible precaution to make this a safe Christmas.

A freshly cut tree does not ignite easily because of the moisture it contains. But the tree soon becomes dry and when dry, it catches fire easily on account of the resinous substances found in evergreens. The Christmas tree can be made practically fireproof by replacing the moisture with a chemical solution. If the stem or trunk of the tree is cut off above the ground and the cut end placed in water while the needles or leaves are still able to evaporate water brought to them from the stem, the cut end will take up relatively large quantities of water into which chemicals are put. With any given species of tree the length of time after cutting during which the tree will retain its ability to absorb water or solution will vary with the conditions to which it has been subjected, such as exposure to wind, high temperature and sunlight.

The method is as follows: The stem of the tree is freshly sawed, preferably at an oblique or "V" shape and placed in a jar or deep container, containing the solution and left in a room of moderate temperature (55 to 65 degrees F.) until the tree is to be used. The quantity of the chemical required, either of calcium chloride (sold usually by building-supply dealers—in 100 pound bags) or ammonium sulphate (from most stores that sell seeds and fertilizers), should equal one-quarter of the weight of the tree. Dissolve the chemical in water at the rate of one and one-quarter pints per pound of chemical. The degree of fire resistance depends upon the amount of the solution taken up by the tree. It should be borne in mind that no inexpensive method is known that will make a Christmas tree completely fireproof. So even if you follow this method of making your tree fire-resistant, take all other precautions you can against a fire.

Do not use ordinary candles to light the tree, nor place the tree near an open fireplace. If you use cotton under the tree be sure it is of a fireproof variety. If you use strings of electric lights see that they are of good quality wire. Examine each inch of every set for worn places in the insulation or outer cover. If a worn place is on the outer cover a strip of friction tape around it will help to prevent accidents. If the inside insulation is worn, the job is one for a practical electrician. If the cord is worn where it enters the plug, the wire must be removed, wrapped separately with tape and reconnected. Broken plugs should be discarded.

Writing As A Sideline

In this issue we introduce our readers to another western Canadian writer. Barbara L. Fletcher, author of *The Tinsel Angel*, lives on the outskirts of Dawson Creek, British Columbia, which is Mile O on the Alaska Highway. She considers that "subject material for writing" fairly teems in that area. On accepting the story, we wrote asking her to tell us something about herself. She replied:

"I was born at Newberry, in England, but call Prince Albert my home town. I am 28 years of age, married and have two small sons, aged three and four years. I am editor of a small weekly, *The Dawson Creek Star*. I am local correspondent for several other publications. I have had a number of articles published in 'outside' newspapers and magazines, some in the east and some in the west. *The Tinsel Angel* is my first published fiction."

When the glow of Christmas wanes and the youngsters go back to their old loved possessions, it is a good idea to put away some of the new toys they received. Bring them out on special occasions, for example on Sunday evenings or when a child has to be in bed for a few days. In that way the child will have something new and interesting for play.

The Tinsel Angel

The part of Mona's mind that loved beauty wanted the tinsel angel for the Christmas tree and yet there were other practical things which must be included in the fall mail order

by BARBARA L. FLETCHER



So the tinsel angel was sent back. Stevie cried when he saw his Mummy wrapping it up. There were tears in Mona's eyes too.

MONA first noticed the tinsel angel when she was making out the mail order for the family's winter clothes. She was turning the catalogue pages from children's rubbers, page 102, to knitting wool, page 210, when her eyes caught the flash of a colored page and there she was, shining and twinkling at the very top of page 180 which was devoted to Christmas tree decorations. Mona ran her forefinger down the little blocks of descriptive printing and stopped at the price. Two dollars and twenty-nine cents—as much as a pair of leather mitts for her husband, Sam; a warm sweater for Jean; or new curtains for the kitchen windows. It was too much. She turned quickly to the knitting wools and ordered enough blue for Jean's sweater. Ski pants for Billy and warm underwear for Sam. Long overstockings for Jean and first-step boots for the baby. Wallpaper for the front room and enough chintz to cover the old sofa in time for Christmas. Mona was jerked back to October by the good smell of mustard pickles boiling on the great wood range. She stirred them absently, her mind seeing the fine Christmas they would have this year. The turkey she had been fattening would be deliciously brown. There would be the cranberries she had picked in the swamp, memories of the hordes of mosquitoes were laughable now. And the tree! It was already chosen. Jean and Billy had found it one day at the far corner of the small pasture. It would be perfect, with the tinsel angel posed on the very tip. Two dollars and twenty-nine cents. The practical part of her mind argued that no mere geegaw in a sparkly gown was worth that much money. "Remember," it said, "this is the first

year that you and Sam have been able to afford a big fall order from the mail order house. Other years things were bought when dire necessity forced the purchase. Just because you had a good crop this year doesn't mean there's two-twenty-nine to fritter away." The part of her that loved beauty and gaiety, yet was so starved for it, argued back, less convincingly, but just as strongly. "You haven't wasted a penny in eight years of married life. Is your tree going to forever be trimmed with twisted crepe paper, old cellophane bags and bits of chocolate wrappings? Two-twenty-nine isn't worth worrying about, and you'll have her to brighten your tree for the rest of your days." WHEN the mail order was dropped into the post office it had a hastily-scrawled line on the bottom: No. TD-1445—tinsel angel—\$2.29. The day that the big parcel came it was snowy and blustery and the children were so excited that Mona was afraid they'd find the angel. She made them hide their eyes while she whisked their Christmas presents away and she managed to scoop up the box containing the angel too. She wanted to sneak down late Christmas Eve and put her in her rightful place on the top of the tree. The angel was to be a surprise to everyone. Next day when she was alone in the house Mona opened the box and had a good look at the angel. She was even lovelier than the catalogue had promised. Spun glass hair and gossamer wings topped a shimmering silver dress looped with tinsel.

Mona held the tinsel angel up for baby Steven to see and he chortled with delight. His round, brown eyes widened and his fat little hands reached for the pretty thing his mother held. She dropped the angel quickly in its box and hugged the baby to her. "Oh Stevie, such a lovely Christmas it'll be," she sang. A few days later Sam asked, "Mona, didn't my bundle of tobacco leaves come with the parcel?" Mona realized that she'd completely forgotten Sam's special brand of tobacco. He bought the fragrant leaves in a big bundle each fall and cured them himself to just the right flavor with deer tongue and other mysterious herbs. "Did you forget to order it?" he asked. "Yes, Sam, I did, but I'll send for it tonight." "I thought it was funny you only used \$33.00 when we allowed \$35," Sam chuckled. "Shame on you, forgetting the most important thing in the whole parcel." Mona knew that most of the tobacco money had gone on the tinsel angel. She also knew that there was no more to spare. They had allowed \$35 for the fall order and that was all there was. So the tinsel angel was sent back. Stevie cried when he saw his Mummy wrapping it up and there were tears in Mona's eyes too. "Beauty and fineness *always* have to give way to necessity," she thought angrily. After it was done though, she felt better. She even got the idea of making an angel for the tree. There was tinsel on the dress Jean had worn at the school Christmas concert the year before, and she could use the rice and tapioca cellophane bags for the dress. She wondered if Jean still had the little celluloid doll she had bought for her one day in town. But the doll was nowhere to be found, and when she found the crepe paper costume, she discovered that the tinsel had already been taken off. Mona sat down and gave way to a feeling of angry defeat.

When Jean came in from school Mona asked her about the tinsel. "Yes, I took it, Mummy," the little girl said. "But whatever for, Jean? I wanted it. Why didn't you ask me?" "Oh Mummy, you see I told the teacher we had it. I wanted . . . she asked me to bring it to school. She wanted to . . . but Mummy! I didn't think you'd mind, especially. . . ." Jean's small face showed a mixture of excited emotions. MONA knew that the children always helped to decorate the school and a tree for the Christmas concert. She could not bear to quench her small daughter's eager delight in that big event. So she smiled at Jean and began to get supper. Thought of the tinsel angel gradually faded to a point where it did not hurt any more. But Mona kept looking for a substitute. She thought about it as she made the spicy Christmas cakes early in November, and as she sewed the crepe paper costume which was to make Jean into a fairy for the concert. Finally she decided on a big star for the top of the tree. Silver paper saved from chocolate bar wrappers could be pasted on a cardboard base. After all, a star was the very symbol of the season. On Christmas Eve when the tree was brought in and trimmed, Mona brought out the silver star and Sam fixed it to the fragrant spur which should have held a tinsel angel. It looked nice though and Mona drifted off to sleep. She had comfortable visions of the huge, white turkey awaiting them in the roaster, the cranberries and the cakes ready to be brought up from the cellar. In no time at all it seemed, the two eldest kiddies were clamoring for her to get up. At first she thought it was just an ordinary day and she fought the idea of waking up. "Come see the tree! Mummy! Daddy!" piped four-year-old Billy. Goodness how loud he shouted! Then she remembered. This was Christmas Day! The one that was going to be so wonderful! She wakened Sam and they all tramped down the creaky stairs together. It was just light enough to see and Mona thought she had never seen a lovelier tree. It was perfect. The presents piled around the trunk, the strings of bright cranberries and the walnuts covered with chocolate paper. The silver star shining dully near the top and the tinsel angel reigning from the very top spur. The tinsel angel! Her eyes were playing tricks in the dim light. Jean was squinting sideways up at her smiling, "Do you like it, Mummy?" "Like it!" Mona breathed. "Where did you get it from?" (Turn to page 38)



Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius



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Combine hot water and cocoa.
Boil 1 minute, stirring constantly.
Cool.

Sift flour (Robin Hood, of course —
it's *guaranteed*), baking powder,
soda, salt and sugar into a bowl.

Add cooled cocoa syrup, corn oil,
vanilla and egg yolks and blend
until smooth.

Beat egg whites together with

3 egg yolks
½ teaspoon vanilla
3 egg whites
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar

ICING

2 tablespoons butter
¼ teaspoon lemon extract
½ teaspoon grated orange rind
2 cups sifted icing sugar
3 tablespoons orange juice

cream of tartar until very stiff.

Fold egg whites into first mixture,
blending carefully.

Bake in ungreased 8-inch tube pan
in moderate oven, 350°F, for about
45 minutes.

Suspend inverted cake pan so that
surface of cake does not touch any-
thing and allow to cool completely
before removing from pan.

Frost when cool with orange icing.

ICING

Cream butter until fluffy.

Add lemon extract and orange rind.

Add sifted icing sugar alternately
with orange juice.

Beat until creamy and smooth.

Decorate icing with melted bitter
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The Tinsel Angel

Continued from page 36

"Mummy, oh Mummy, I *made* it! With the tinsel off that old paper dress and teacher helped me! And Mummy, it was such a secret!"

Mona walked to the tree and stood looking up at the tinsel angel while the children scrambled for their parcels. The shimmering golden gown was nothing more than gold cellophane that had been wrapped around the kippered herring a few weeks ago. The dinted little doll was beautiful in it.

On her head was a starched bit of white net with silver sequins—from that old black dress of hers most likely—forming a halo. More starched white net made a lovely diaphanous pair of wings, also edged with sequins.

Two-twenty-nine? Why this angel was priceless!

"Mummy, this one's for you!" shouted Jean, holding up a lumpy package.

"Mummy, see train!" screeched Billy.

Baby Steven sat on Sam's knee staring happily at the tree.

"When do we eat?" Sam asked grinning.

Christmas Day was in full swing. It was going to be the most wonderful Christmas Day ever.

What Will You Answer?

When a child asks about Santa

by EFFIE BUTLER

WHEN your small son or daughter looks up at you with earnest eyes and asks: "Mother, was it Daddy who put the presents on our Christmas tree?"

What will be your answer?

The children of this atomic day are more sophisticated little people than we fathers, mothers, aunts, and uncles were at the same age. Should we not then, in the light of this, ask ourselves if we can continue to expect the modern child to accept the old Christmas tale of Santa Claus complete with reindeers and bulging sacks of toys?

Pre-school and primary class boys and girls seem increasingly more fascinated with the mechanical intricacies of an armored car, or a miniature battery of machine guns, than with the oft-told story of Santa sliding silently down the chimneys in the dark of the night. What can we do about it? Should we struggle to preserve their illusions? Can we expect children who have learned early life's realities to accept fairy fiction?

I think the answer is "Yes," with limits.

Adults, themselves, must first believe that the Christmas legends told to children for ages past are worthwhile. To prove this, one need only observe the joy in the little upturned faces and the light of anticipation in young eyes when the fiction of jolly St. Nicholas is being told.

Today's juniors may be sophisticated beyond their years. They may be little realists, but the very young mind will accept much more than we suppose. It asks questions, but not being analytical, accepts the answers given.

The story of Santa Claus should be every child's heritage. I believe our
(Turn to page 42)

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You'll be surprised how quickly a bad winter cough can be relieved, when you try this well known recipe. It is universally used throughout Canada because it gives such gratifying results. It's no trouble at all to mix, and costs but a trifle.

Into a 16 ounce bottle, pour 2½ ounces of Pinex; then fill up with granulated sugar syrup to make 16 ounces. Syrup is easily made with 2 cups of sugar and 1 cup of water, stirred a few moments until dissolved. No cooking needed. Or you can use corn syrup or liquid honey, instead of sugar syrup. This makes four times as much cough medicine for your money. It never spoils and tastes fine.

Quickly you feel its penetrating effect. It loosens the phlegm, helps to clear the air passages, and soothes the irritated membranes. This three-fold action explains why it brings such quick relief in distressing coughs.

Pinex is a special compound of proven ingredients, in concentrated form, well known for its soothing effect on throat irritations. Money refunded if it does not please you in every way.



The bird, done to a turn and with all the trimmings, is centre of interest at the Christmas dinner.

Holiday Meats

A review of points in roasting meat and some ideas for extending the holiday bird

by LILLIAN VIGRASS

TURKEY never seems to go out of fashion as the traditional choice for a holiday dinner. The meal, however, is as much a matter of flavor as of a specific food and the Christmas dinner can be built around any meat with equal success. By extra care in the choice and preparation of the accompaniments, a flavor-conscious cook can make a banquet out of the plainest materials. Chicken, duck, goose, or turkey may be the favorite but there is some fine eating in roast pork, with its piquant apple sauce, or roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Even mock duck, actually an extra-good meat loaf, makes a delicious holiday dinner. Then one can use richer accompaniments and even manage the mince pie or plum pudding that is just about too much with the turkey dinner.

If your family insists on having fowl and you know there just isn't enough for everyone try extending the bird by the addition of other meats. Stuffing, of course, extends the meat flavor as well as improves the appearance of the roast bird. Pork sausage roasted with the chicken or turkey is delicious. Or you may want to try a mock duck with fowl. Shape it into an oval similar to the shape of a duck and serve it on the same platter—if the platter is large enough; or make two smaller ones to flank each side of the bird.

To roast meat well is an art. However, it is an art that is easy to acquire. The objective in any meat cookery is to develop the flavor of the meat, improve the texture and retain the tenderness—or tenderize if necessary. Apply sufficient heat for the correct amount of time to reach your objective without affecting the quality of the meat. A low temperature gives a tender, juicy product.

THE flavor of the meat comes in part from soluble substances known as extractives, while the amount and distribution of fat affects the richness of the meat juices. If the meat lacks fat, as for example in poultry, basting is required while

roasting. The breast of the bird is often rubbed over with fat before putting it in the oven. Bacon strips are sometimes laid over the breast or a white cloth dipped in melted fat may be tucked around the bird for the whole roasting period.

In deciding how much meat is needed remember that if the cut is all meat a quarter to a third of a pound per person is sufficient; up to one-half pound is required for a cut with moderate waste as in a chop, and three-quarters of a pound for a roast with a fairly large bone. Allow three-quarters to one pound of fowl per person except ducks and geese which have so much of their weight in the form of fat that a one-and-a-half-pound serving is necessary. With a large and well-fleshed turkey one-half pound will give one serving. For this reason it is wiser to buy one twenty-pound turkey than two ten-pound birds.

Modern methods of roasting do away with the preliminary searing in a hot oven and call for longer cooking at a constant low temperature. This method is more economical on the fuel and the low heat gives a juicier product. A meat thermometer is a big help even to the experienced cook but it is not a necessity. Insert it so that the bulb is in the fleshy part away from the bone. Cooking temperature is 325°F for a smaller roast; 300°F for the larger one. Roasting continues until the thermometer registers 170°F for a well-done roast, up to 190°F for a fowl.

If the bird is young and plump it is best cooked in a shallow open pan. A double roaster may be used for older birds or in case it is difficult to keep the oven at an even temperature. Regardless of type of pan the bird should be placed on a rack. If the giblets are to be used for gravy they should be covered with water and simmered in a covered pan while the bird is roasting.

Roast Chicken

Clean, stuff and truss. Rub the entire surface of the bird with soft, or melted fat; sprinkle lightly and evenly with salt

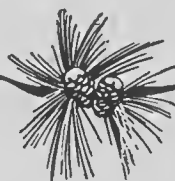


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All year round, make your cakes tender and perfect-flavored with pure Magic Baking Powder: No waste of costly ingredients—and Magic costs less than 1¢ per average baking!



MAGIC CHRISTMAS CAKE

2 cups seedless raisins	1 cup cut-up pitted dates	1½ tsps. ground cinnamon
1 cup currants	½ cup cut-up candied pineapple or other candied fruits	½ tsp. grated nutmeg
1½ cups separated seeded raisins	1 tbsp. finely-chopped candied ginger	½ tsp. ground ginger
1½ cups drained red maraschino or candied cherries (or a mixture of red cherries and green candied cherries)	3 cups sifted pastry flour or 2⅔ cups sifted hard-wheat flour	¼ tsp. ground mace
1 cup almonds	1½ tsps. Magic Baking Powder	¼ cup butter
1½ cups slivered or chopped mixed candied peels and citron	¾ tsp. salt	1¼ cups lightly-packed brown sugar
		6 eggs
		¼ cup molasses
		⅓ cup cold strong coffee



Wash and dry the seedless raisins and currants. Wash and dry the seeded raisins, if necessary, and cut into halves. Cut cherries into halves. Blanch the almonds and cut into halves. Prepare the dates, peels and citron, candied pineapple or other fruits, and ginger. Sift together 3 times, the flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, mace and cloves; add prepared fruits and nuts, a few at a time, mixing until fruits are separated and coated with flour. Cream the butter; gradually blend in the sugar. Add unbeaten eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition; stir in molasses. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture alternately with coffee, combining thoroughly after each addition. Turn batter into a deep 8-inch square cake pan that has been lined with three layers of heavy paper and the top layer greased with butter; spread evenly. Bake in a slow oven 300°, about 2½ to 3 hours. Let cake stand in its pan on a cake cooler until cold. Store in a crock, or wrap in waxed paper and store in a tin. A few days before cake is to be cut, top with almond paste and ornamental icing; just before cutting, cake may be decorated attractively.

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and if desired dust lightly with flour. Place the chicken on a rack, breast side down and put in a moderate oven. After 30 minutes turn the breast up and baste. As drippings accumulate use them for basting.

Continue roasting until the chicken is tender and cooked throughout. If sausage is to be served with the fowl place them over the breast for the last three-quarters of an hour. They come out nicely browned and also serve to baste the chicken for the last half-hour.

Roast Turkey

Prepare as directed for roast chicken. Place the bird on its side on a rack in a shallow pan in a slow oven (325°F for bird under 14 pounds; 300°F for one larger.) Turn and baste every hour in this order: (1) one side of the breast turned uppermost; (2) other side of the breast; (3) back; (4) breastbone. To remove the bird take a dinner plate in each hand, slip these under the bird until it is held firmly in a wedge; lift to the platter and take away the plates.

Roast Duck And Goose

Clean and stuff; sprinkle the body and neck cavities with salt. Ducks and geese have such short legs and wings that they do not need to be trussed. Apple, prune or orange stuffing is recommended.

Place breast down on a rack in a shallow open pan. Roast in a moderate oven (350°F); turning every 45 minutes and ending with the breast up. Do not baste; instead, prick the skin each time the bird is turned so that the fat will drain off. In making the gravy be certain the excess fat is drained off.

Mock Duck

Dress this mock duck up with a mushroom sauce and garnish it with currant or cranberry jelly molds on orange slices. It'll become one of the favorite family dinners.

1 lb. chopped veal	2 T. chopped onion
1 lb. chopped pork	
1 lb. chopped beef	1 T. chopped parsley
1½ T. salt	
½ tsp. pepper	
1 c. grated dry bread or rolled cracker crumbs	
1½ tsp. sage	Dash of tabasco
½ tsp. marjoram	1 c. meat stock
1 egg	

Have veal, pork and beef put through the meat grinder together. To this add salt, pepper, onion, sage, marjoram, parsley, tabasco and crumbs. Mix thoroughly then add slightly beaten egg yolk and stock. (Make stock to use for gravy and for basting from a portion of veal bone broken into pieces, cover with water and cook slowly for an hour.) When liquid has been well blended with meat pack into a greased pan shaping into an oval loaf. Bake in a moderate oven for about three hours, basting occasionally with one-half cup stock to which three tablespoons fat has been added.

Lights Of Christmas

Globes of colored lights for Christmas
Twinkling down the street,
Shafts from candle-lighted windows
Glinting through the sleet—

Dancing, merry lights of Christmas
Flick'ring on a tree,
Like tiny lamps of happiness
Blinking there at me—

Holy, glowing Christmas taper,
Gleaming eastern star,
Ray of golden gladness leading
Wise Men from afar—

Brighter than these Yuletide beacons,
Fairer splendor lies,
Held by pools of magic love-light,
In a small child's eyes.

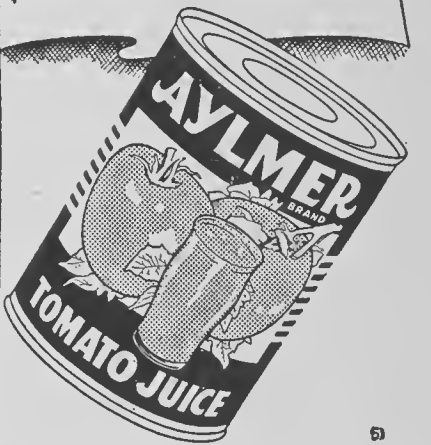
—EFFIE BUTLER.



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Stars At Christmas

How sadly we miss our small school Christmas entertainment!

by MARJORIE FORRESTER

WITH the closing of so many rural schools throughout Manitoba, one hears regrets for various reasons. My own nostalgia stems from the discontinuing of the Christmas tree concerts. Although every rural school had a good concert, we did think ours was something "special."

For one thing, our two adjoining schools worked together each year. The entertainment was held in the Community Hall where there was a good platform, good light and dressing rooms. Then there were costume committees, candy bag committees, etc., working with the teachers, as well as pianists to help.

We did have fun, with the mistakes appreciated as much as the perfect performances.

We still become uproarious every time anyone mentions the Indian drill. This was put on by eight or ten boys whose realistic costumes were made of gunny sacks, frayed for the fringes. As the boys marched up the steps and onto the stage, we heard a bad word, and a teacher's low "hush." The drill was good, feet falling as one big foot, corners smartly turned, etc., but when arms were raised with tomahawks, one boy didn't come through. He kept his hands clutched on his hips. As the boy who had not raised his tomahawk took the last step within our vision as they were marching off, his foot lifted and the boy ahead went down the steps with a crash.

"Step on my pant legs and bust the drawstring, will you! Darn you anyhow," came furiously back to the appreciative audience.

Then there was the dialogue between the two little tots (strictly brother and sister, since they had to kiss one another) which dripped with emotion. The girl was shabbily dressed and was selling paper flowers (somewhat dusty and crinkled looking) carried in a grape basket. The boy had an unlikely shoe-shine outfit. Scene was a London street. By chance the children discovered they were brother and sister, separated since their mother's death. They did it so well they brought tears to the eyes. Their parents pampered them for days, their feelings were so wrought up.

One boy had a recitation. As he was giving it the children who had been in the previous item came out one by one, walked across in front of the platform to take their seats. We all hoped the reciter would wait. He was so letter perfect that he kept right on, but his eyes went with each child, following them from dressing room door to each seat. He never missed a word—nor a child. I doubt if anyone in the audience registered a word of the poem, the boy himself was so fascinating.

ONE of our biggest laughs came from a pantomime one school put on. The script called for someone to sing the words. As no pupil would volunteer, be coaxed or be forced to do this, the teacher decided to do the singing herself. All went beautifully, until the big boy who was acting the part of a stern and hoary father became visibly dizzy and fell off the

stage. Reason was that he was supposed to wear glasses, but no one had brought any lenseless ones or any other kind, so in desperation the lad borrowed his mother's, which were far too strong. Still the teacher sang on—and the act finished without a break. Commented the exhausted teacher afterwards—"If I had let one giggle escape, I'd never have got stopped laughing to start to sing again."

Another time six little boys were doing a song. Their teacher had drilled them to bow all together at the beginning. Two weeks before Christmas one little boy took sick, and only made it back to school the day of the entertainment—too late to practice. Came the night and the song! The excited boy who had been absent bowed a second too soon. This was not good enough for their well-trained souls, so they tried it again—and again. It kept on until the frantic teacher croaked fiercely, "Sing! you boys, sing!"

You've all heard the recitation about the little girl trying to learn the tables, and getting snagged on "six times nine," but did you ever hear it given by a little girl who lisped badly? Unforgettable!

WE remember many beautiful songs, and one that brought our nerves almost to the breaking point. An older pupil was singing "The Gypsy's Warning," accompanied by the overworked and tired teacher. The pianist started a shade too fast, and the girl became excited. So instead of merely singing a little faster, she sang faster and higher. The teacher in turn played still faster and louder. The girl sang faster and louder and still higher. At the close of the song the audience sighed a terrific sigh of relief before they could applaud.

The funniest item we've heard of was a crow drill, each participant being dressed as a glassy black crow, complete with wings and tails. Alas, one crow got his tail caught in a door, and lost it entirely. But the drill had to go on. The tailless crow brought down the house.

The most beautiful item recalled was the song "The Rendezvous," sung by hidden singers and pantomimed by two children dressed as shepherd and shepherdess. They were placed as statues at a very fine rose arbor in a garden scene, lighted to represent moonlight. At certain times in the song the children sedately descended and did a little folk dance. The details were worked out splendidly.

We've sewn miles of crepe paper, scoured the district for dressing gowns to be the robes of wise men and shepherds, constructed wooden shoes of gold paper, cardboard and wooden soles, for Dutch costumes. We wept once in the war years, at a camp-fire scene at which a soldier sang "A White Christmas," have been delighted with moustaches that fell off or ran, and have been moved to see remembered heirlooms folded in to make old fashioned clothes fit small people.

We've had recitations that were perfect and many that had a "Mairzy Doates" quality, but we've enjoyed them all, for each entertainment represented a real community effort.

a family favorite
hard to beat
spicy rich, piping hot
CINNAMON BUNS



If you bake at home—
these are easy to make

It's bound to be a "Good Morning"—when you serve delicious, hot-and-fragrant Cinnamon Buns for breakfast. They'll win you plenty of praise... made with Fleischmann's Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast!

Full-Strength—Goes Right to Work
Modern Fleischmann's Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast keeps for weeks and weeks right on your pantry shelf. It's fast—it's ACTIVE. All you do is:

1. In a small amount (usually specified) of lukewarm water, dissolve

thoroughly 1 teaspoon sugar for each envelope of yeast.

2. Sprinkle with dry yeast. Let stand 10 minutes.

3. THEN stir well. (The water used with the yeast counts as part of the total liquid called for in your recipe.)

Next time you bake, insist on Fleischmann's Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast. Keep several weeks' supply on hand. There's nothing like it for delicious soft-textured breads, rolls, dessert breads—such as all the family loves!

CINNAMON BUNS

Makes 2½ dozen

Measure into large bowl

1 cup lukewarm water

2 teaspoons granulated sugar
and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

2 envelopes Fleischmann's Royal
Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

In the meantime, scald

1 cup milk

Remove from heat and stir in

½ cup granulated sugar

1¼ teaspoons salt

6 tablespoons shortening

Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture;

Stir in 2 well-beaten eggs

Stir in 3 cups once-sifted bread flour

and beat until smooth; work in

3 cups more once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening. Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught. Let rise until doubled in bulk. While dough is rising, combine

1½ cups brown sugar

(lightly pressed down)

3 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 cup washed and dried seedless
raisins

Punch down dough and divide into 2 equal portions; form into smooth balls. Roll each piece into an oblong ¼-inch thick and 16 inches long; loosen dough. Brush with melted butter or margarine. Sprinkle with raisin mixture. Beginning at a long edge, roll up each piece loosely, like a jelly roll. Cut into 1-inch slices. Place just touching each other, a cut-side up, in greased 7-inch round layer-cake pans (or other shallow pans). Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderate oven 350°, 20-25 minutes. Serve hot, or reheated.





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with long or round bobbin. As illustrated above.

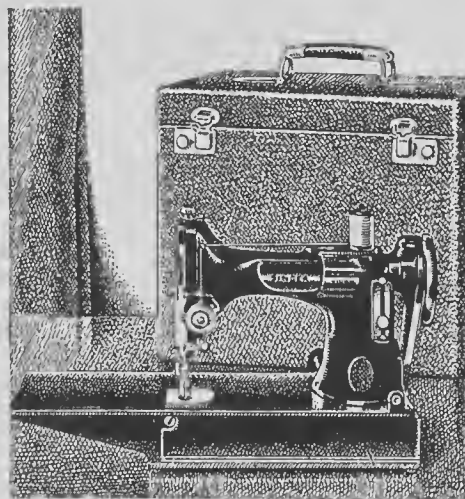
● Treadle —

with long or round bobbin. As illustrated above, without electric motor.



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Christmas Decorations

Should help bring cheer and be in the spirit of the day

THE green and red and silver of Christmas decorations are a wonderful thing in the dark days of December, and there is no doubt that they help us to go more cheerfully through the winter weather. But when one stops to think about it, is it not an odd thing that in most homes there is nothing in the Christmas decorations to celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Christ? Does it not seem fitting that in a Christian home something with definitely a sacred theme should be added to the usual scheme of decoration?

Some people always choose Christmas cards with a Nativity scene on them. Some families like to hang a Nativity picture in a prominent place and decorate it with evergreens or poinsettias.

Children always loved the old-fashioned angel doll on top of the Christmas tree and regarded it with reverent admiration. If not an angel, be sure to hang a star, and to tell the children why it is there.

I know one family who started many years ago to gather little figures to assemble a Christmas scene. They

began with Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus lying in a little home-made miniature manger, and every year they added to it until they had a lovely collection . . . the Holy Family, Shepherds, Wise Men, Innkeeper and other onlookers, cows, asses and so on. Some were little dolls dressed in eastern costume, some were carved in wood, some were Italian pottery figures, gifts from friends who had travelled in Italy. All of them were the result of loving thought and care, and the Bethlehem scene was a fresh joy and interest to each member of the family as the Christmas season dawned. They never were tempted to allow Santa Claus to reign supreme.

Such an idea is in the reach of most families. Figures could be cut out of cardboard and colored with crayons. A background of deep blue crepe paper for the sky, generously dotted with silver stars, is most effective. Arranged on a small table, by itself, or on the floor in front of the Christmas tree, under the lowest branches, a Bethlehem creche scene will be full of interest for the young folk and will help them appreciate the significance of the first Christmas.

What Will You Answer?

Continued from page 38

aim should be that no small boy or girl be deprived of the delights of the make-believe while it is still acceptable. Our main concern being that it is presented in a form which will not conflict with the fastly advancing experience and intelligence of the child.

Adults enjoy good fiction. A good film entertains us but in many cases the theme is far from the realities and wholly unbelievable. Do we reject them? No, we welcome them for their entertainment value and for the relaxation they offer from the more serious side of life.

Is this not so with the children, only to a more marked degree? They will carry the game much farther before they declare, "It can't be true."

This is a reaction that is normal and certain to come. Depending upon the nature and the intelligence of the child it will come early or late. This is not a phase of great consequence, though some would have us believe it to be a crisis.

When your children ask: "Mother, are you and Daddy *really* Santa Claus?" The only answer is, "Yes, Mother and Daddy put the presents on our Christmas tree, but it's a lovely game of pretending, isn't it?"

Few children will react unfavorably to a forthright, light-hearted explanation of this kind. A very few may put you on the spot and accuse you of previously telling an untruth. When, and if, this happens it is easy to be reassuring by explaining it wasn't intended as an untruth. The great spirit of Christmas is an old old game everybody, even grown-ups, have been playing for years and years!

Children should not be asked to believe what their intelligence rejects. Encourage them in the understanding that realism is good and desirable in its own place, but that the age-old Christmas fiction is full of delightful fun.

If you warm clothes pins in the oven for a few minutes before you go out to hang clothes on winter days, it'll help keep fingers from getting cold.

Felt Dutch Hat

by ANNA DE BELLE

Design No. 786.

You may order this easy-to-make, easy-to-wear, easy-to-look-at chapeau in red, green, navy or black felt. You embroider the motif in chain or running stitch; you sew a line of sewing machine stitching all around the edge; you attach ties to the two ends and knot them behind your curly locks . . . and there you are, all neat and nifty. Stamped hat and directions are 50 cents, thread 5 cents. Please state colors. Address orders to The Country Guide, Needlework Dept., Winnipeg, Man.



Trim and Cosy



567

565

No. 567—Side pockets and button trim make this design special and very new. Try it in taffy colored wool with glinting metallic buttons. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. Size 16 (34) requires 4½ yards 39-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 565—Two-piecer in western tradition. Blouse has high riding collar with a scarf knot. Skirt has big "saddle" pockets and deep front pleat for free stepping. Sizes 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 years; 31, 33, 35 and 37 inches bust. Size 13 (31) requires 1½ yards 39-inch fabric (blouse); 2½ yards 54-inch (skirt) fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 566—New lines featured in this dress with its "Gladstone" collar, deep-set sleeves and that side-buttoned, twin-yoked skirt. Shoulders show designing skill. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 32, 34, 36 and 38 inches bust. Size 16 (34) requires 3¾ yards 39-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 573—Two-piecer guaranteed to warm the heart of fashion-wise junior. That dramatic standing collar with its deep plunge can be replaced with a demure Peter Pan collar, if that's your type. Sizes 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 years; 31, 33, 35 and 37 inches bust. Size 13 (31) requires 2½ yards 54-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.



566

573



588

No. 588—Cowboy doll, all dressed up in his own outfit—a sure charm to the heart of any youngster. For doll: ¾ yard 35-inch fabric. For shirt and pants: ¾ yard 35-inch. For hat, scarf and chaps: ¾ yard 35-inch. For boots: 8-inch square of plastic. One size only. Price 25 cents.

No. 583—Skating outfit for small girl. Consists of fitted jacket, circular skirt and calot. In red or green corduroy it would suit winter wear. Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8 requires 3¾ yards 35-inch fabric; 1½ yards 35-inch contrasting. Price 25 cents.

No. 586—Midriff gown to flatter the figure. For luxury and long wear make it in pastel toned sheer nylon fabric. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 years. Size 16 (34) requires 4¾ yards 35-inch fabric; 5¾ yards lace for trim. Price 25 cents.

WINTER FASHION BOOK—beautifully illustrated, contains almost 200 styles suitable for every occasion for fall and winter wear. Up-to-the-minute in design, practical and easy to make. Every pattern contains complete sewing chart. Price of book, 35 cents.

No. 579—Housecoat cut on neat lines, tailored lapels, trim inset waistband concealing gathers in skirt front. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. Size 16 (34) requires 5 yards 35-inch fabric. Price 25 cents.

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583



579



586



586



579



574



574



565



566



584

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Should Gardiner

Continued from page 8

purchase agreements, takes over from farmers and holds, subject to their disposal, or its own ultimate sale, all that is offered of certain specified major commodities, entirely at the risk of the government; and (3) the use of acreage allotments, quotas, parity payments, marketing orders, and marketing agreements, as may be required by the circumstances and by existing legislation, for the purpose of maintaining a reasonably well-balanced farm production, or to make price support effective for a particular commodity. There are also important supplementary aspects of the U.S. Farm Program such as the National School Lunch Program, the Federal Land Banks, the Banks for Co-operatives, the Farmers' Home Administration, Federal Crop Insurance, and the Rural Electrification Administration.

The United States is today, therefore, something of a farmers' paradise, as compared with any other country in the world that we know of. Notwithstanding this, the U.S. farm program is not perfect, as witness the present domestic wrangle, now postponed until 1950, over the question of a long-range farm program. Secretary Brannan's proposal to support national farm income rather than individual farm prices, while at the same time permitting consumers the benefits of competitive open market prices, is yet to be finally disposed of—possibly by adoption.

Canada, sitting midway, as it were, between her British heritage and her

American economic ties, has been a copier rather than an innovator in some important phases of her economic life. Particularly in manufacturing and in agriculture, we have applied—with some time-lag—many methods and ideas evolved by our great industrial neighbor. Indeed, it is quite true, as was written recently by the economist of the Bank of Nova Scotia, that developments in the United States are the most important influences in determining the trend of prices and business in Canada. It is, therefore, quite natural for us to ask ourselves: "Can we apply the principal features of U.S. farm policy to Canada?"

Canada plays an important part among the nations of the world as an industrial nation, skilled in the application of modern techniques in industry and commerce, in the "know-how" of manufacturing and production, and in the achievement of a relatively high standard of living for her people. She is recognized, despite her youth, as well qualified by the nature of her government and by the attitude of her people, to take her place among the leading democracies. Canada is also an important producer of farm commodities; she has large natural resources; her population is growing, and her people are virile and confident of the future.

It is also true that there is a disposition on the part of a growing number of people to believe in the desirability and immediate feasibility of the so-called "welfare state." This means, briefly, that the state should in some substantial measure guarantee and protect the welfare of all citizens

of the state, rather than of a less-privileged number. To one prominent American statesman it meant the belief that the government of the United States could do in a short time what God had found it impossible to do in all the time since the Creation—which is further evidence that the mind of man is not a unifying influence. In any case, one important obstacle to improved levels of farm living, whether real or imagined, is cost. Could Canada provide a farm program as specific, as well-rounded and as generous and as certain, as that now in effect in the United States?

Let's look at some facts. The U.S. population is now 149 million; Canada's 13.3 million, or not quite one-eleventh. The U.S. national income is this year perhaps \$230 billion; Canada's about \$15 billion, or about one-fifteenth. The U.S. has about 5,900,000 farms; Canada about 690,000, or not quite one-ninth. U.S. farm income is running at about \$30 billion; Canada's at \$2.4 billion, or not quite one-twelfth. U.S. farm population in 1948 was 18.9 per cent of the total; Canada's farm population in 1941, the last figure available (though since decreased), was slightly more than 27 per cent of the total. The U.S. harvested acreage of 26 principal crops in 1948 was 363,831,000 acres; Canada's acreage of her 16 principal field crops was 61,308,100 acres, or about one-sixth. Total farm land in the U.S. in 1940 was 1,061 million acres; in Canada the amount of occupied farm land in 1941 was approximately 175 million acres, or about one-sixth. In 1940, the U.S. farm labor force, including operators and paid and unpaid

labor, numbered 8,770,546; in Canada the number of males, 14 years and over, employed in agriculture in 1941 was 1,061,000 or approximately one-eighth. Agriculture's share of the national income in each country is now running between 10 and 11 per cent. In 1947, government payments to U.S. farmers amounted to \$47 per farm operator, or \$10 per person living on farms. In addition to this figure, however, there must be added as part of the cost of the farm program, all administrative costs, all losses, if any, on the operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and all net costs of the various supplementary programs, for which we do not have the essential figures.

THE cost to Canada of such a program, however substantial it might be, is not necessarily the limiting factor. There is another important factor which must be taken into consideration. The relationship between prices received by farmers and prices paid by farmers in 1947, for example, was such that prices received in the U.S. were 20 per cent higher than prices paid. This compared with only five per cent in Canada. However, the differing markets available to farmers in the two countries must be remembered. The U.S. farmer's exports have been declining steadily for a long time, except for the post-war period. Even during the peak of need in Europe, the U.S. exported no more than would equal 13 or 14 per cent of cash farm receipts, while for the years 1935-39, exports of U.S. farm products averaged only nine per cent of cash farm receipts. By contrast, Canada

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normally has exported around 30 per cent of her total farm production, though this figure, too, is declining as our population rises and personal incomes remain at a high level. To this difference must be added the fact that a higher proportion of the U.S. population consists of non-farm consumers who, on the average, also enjoy higher incomes.

The difference in the proportion of total farm output which must be sold in export markets presents a sizable obstacle to the development of a satisfactory farm policy. It means that at any time world conditions are unstable world markets are likely to be unstable and risks proportionately increased. Any government prepared to guarantee to the Canadian farmer a price supported at a specific level in relation to a fixed parity formula, would be bound in self-defence to hold the support level low enough to keep the element of risk to the public treasury within limits which the treasury could stand, and of which parliament and the people would approve. What that degree of risk is no one in Canada knows, because no one in Canada has tried it out. It is true that during the years 1944-45-46 the Canadian Government paid out subsidies totalling between \$115 and \$165 million each year on farm commodities, but these were, for the most part, consumer subsidies designed to keep down the cost of living and further the government policy of price control. They were in no sense a precedent for peacetime farm policy.

Some difficulty might be encountered with regard to the relative number of important farm commodities needing special attention in the two countries. Although the United States officially lists 52 principal crops, only half a dozen or so are considered basic commodities at any time, though an additional 12 commodities were accorded fixed supports after 1941. Chief among the basic crops are wheat, corn, cotton, rice, tobacco and peanuts. Actually, the secretary of agriculture determines parity price bases for about 155 farm products, which is, of course, greatly in excess of the number which would be involved in any Canadian farm policy. Our chief products which might create some concern, and which are exported to some extent in normal times, are: wheat, oats, barley, flax for seed, cheese, hogs, beef cattle, dried and concentrated milks, poultry, eggs, apples and potatoes. Some further products including fluid milk and cream, some domestically-consumed fruits, as well as canning crops, field corn and perhaps veal and lamb might need consideration in a farm policy.

THERE is the further fact in connection with our exports that the bulk of them go to Britain and the United States. Sales to Britain might

complicate a farm policy of the American type, owing to the bulk purchase policy of the present British government. Sales to the United States market need not have such an effect so long as assured prices were not higher for any major product than similar prices embodied in the U.S. farm program.

There is, of course, no argument as to the applicability of the parity principle in Canada. If the principle of parity is sound in one country, it is sound in the other; the difference, if any, would probably be in the actual level of price supports. The same applies to the desirability or practicability of either compensatory, or conservation, or production payments generally. Should these be accepted in principle, they are as sound in one country as in the other. If the need for it is thought to exist, a body similar to the Commodity Credit Corporation is likewise feasible in Canada. Indeed, until recently we had a somewhat similar body in the Commodity Price Stabilization Corporation operated under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

The various restrictive or controlled measures accompanying U.S. farm policy, which many people choose to regard chiefly as coercive, should be no more offensive to the comparatively docile and law-abiding people of Canada, than to the aggressive and free-enterprising population of our wealthy neighbor. Canadian farmers have had sufficient coercion and compulsion in the years since the war ended, that they should not stick at a marketing quota, or an acreage allotment, if it is believed that it would result in a greater measure of stabilized prosperity for all.

Whether the Canadian people or even the Canadian government are ready to consider the implications of a farm policy similar to that of the United States at this moment, having had nothing like it in the past, is, of course, an entirely different matter. There is no reason to think that the non-farm population of Canada are very much interested, to say nothing of the extent of their information about the underlying purposes and essential need of modern agriculture for a fairly well-defined farm policy. In the circumstances, however, there is good reason for believing that some, at least, of the essential features of American farm policy will be found applicable to this country and will eventually be incorporated into Canadian farm policy, either by the present government of Canada, or another. The very fact of our growing industrialization, our increasing similarity to the economic conditions of the United States, our similar disparities between farm and non-farm income, and of the hazards characteristic of agriculture generally, argue for this in an enlightened age.

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Cover Cropping
Continued from page 11

some of which had lain bare all winter. To his delight it was revealed that some of the soils which had grown winter feed contained more moisture than those which had been idle. Obviously the trash cover had collected snow. In this Chinook country, where successive snow falls may be melted during the course of a winter, this may mean considerable collection of trapped moisture by spring.

THE year 1937 will be long remembered by those who have suffered from drought and soil drifting. In that year the Reynolds farm became the Illustration Station for the district, which perhaps provided its proprietor with a pulpit from which to persuade. However that may be, as the disastrous summer progressed the farmers of this wealthy district, who had always disdained strip farming, took to it on a big scale, and a regular rash of cover cropping broke out. By the next year 90 per cent of the land was stripped and cover crops were fairly general, and to this day they are nearly all strip farmers.

The cover crop idea received a powerful boost from outside. Ranchers, stockyards commission agents, and cattle owners in surrounding districts awoke to the realization that a tremendous amount of winter feed had suddenly become available in the Claresholm country. They commenced the practice of contracting for it, beginning in the first year at a dollar an acre. When the first stockyards operators came to inspect their cattle on the green September growth, they were scandalized at the amount of scouring. Reynolds had to talk fast and put up some guarantees to keep some of them from moving their cattle back on to dry feed. Ten days later they inspected the stock again, with the result that they bought every acre of green crop for sale.

In 1940 competing stockmen bid the price up to \$1.75 an acre. By 1942 it was \$3.00. The price had doubled again by VJ Day, and by 1948 they had to pay up to \$10 an acre. One variant was to pay 30 cents per day per beast on feed. It is commonly said that those who bought cover crop at these price levels lost money on the deal.

MEANWHILE the farmers of Claresholm were learning more about cover crop production. Gradually they established the rule that they should be sown from July 20 to August 10 at the rate of from six pecks to a bushel per acre. Cattle owners smile a little sourly at a statement like that. Some of them declare that farmers are so afraid of losing moisture that they are cutting down the rate of seeding to two pecks per acre, and that they are sowing late to make sure that frost kills growth before the crop heads out. Oats have become exclusively the crop used. Some testing is being done to discover which variety gives the greatest leafage.



Cattle are put into the crop the last week of September. Mature stock require about an acre per month per head. Some phenomenal gains have been reported. Three pounds per day per head is fairly common.

The profits made by the cattle owners up to 1947 induced many farmers to buy their feeding cattle outright. Reynolds now follows that course and asserts that he makes more money out of the plain kind than out of the fancy ones. There is a hitch, however, in a farmer owning the cattle on his cover crop. The owner takes all the risk. Come early or heavy snow fall or a price decline the loss falls entirely upon him. Big cow owners can meet the first risk because they usually own large dry-feed plants to which cattle can be moved.

EXPERIENCED cover crop growers think the risk of a snowed-in winter is not too great. Some of them keep young cattle out all winter on cover crop with the aid of a 16-foot snow plow hauled by a tractor. Some owners swath it and the cattle pick out of the rows all winter. In the Claresholm country old timers declare that they can only remember two winters with permanent snow before Christmas, by which time the cattle are beginning to come off cover crop. The practice of cover cropping has extended north, even north of Calgary, but the further north one goes, the earlier he is likely to encounter permanent snow. Men who have made money at this game at Claresholm doubt its practicability north of the Bow River. They will tell you, in addition, that the rate of daily gain at Claresholm is greater than it is at High River, only 40 miles north, due to certain favorable qualities of the soil. Peter Jamieson, formerly district agriculturist, expresses the belief that cover cropping at its best is limited to about 14 townships.

Even within the limits of Jamieson's favored area there is no agreement on the effect of a cover crop on the ensuing grain yield. Farmers on adjoining farms take opposite sides in the argument. Their opinions vary all the way from those who say that over the years it has never lost them a nickel to that of the Darch Bros., farming on heavy land east of town, who will have nothing to do with it. They claim to have lost as much as 15 bushels of wheat per acre on the following crop.

IN between the boosters and the knockers there are many farmers who have been growing cover crops but who will not give this practice their unconditional blessing. Gordon Walker, ex-M.L.A., thinks his average wheat yield is down five bushels per acre through cover cropping. He doesn't depend on cover crops to control drifting. With him the blade is the thing, but he admits there are years when a blade cannot be used.

Ed Strangways thinks a cover crop causes some loss on his wheat yield, but he does not place it so high. Cover crop land is a little harder to work in the spring. His guess is that the high price of cover crop and the

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prevalence with which it is grown are related to the high price of beef. Come a return to normal beef prices and he believes there will be fewer fallows seeded down for fall feed.

Carl Milnes says that the loss on the ensuing wheat crop varies with the season. He has harvested a 45-bushel wheat crop off a field from which he had collected seven to ten dollars an acre for cover crop grazing the previous fall. He admits, however, that in a dry year he would suffer from loss in wheat yield.

One thing they are all agreed on is the importance of a bountiful supply of drinking water for cattle grazing cover crop. Cattle owners inspecting farms where they are contemplating buying a green stand are most particular about this feature. Some cover crop owners who have not got, and cannot get well water, keep a man and tank on the road as long as the cattle are on the crop. Some of the cattle owners provide the tank and driver themselves, making suitable adjustment in the contract.

There is another aspect of cover cropping that cannot be overlooked, the same one which has contributed to the drop in pork production—the income tax angle. Probably the net income of most of the men growing cover crops during the favorable years of the middle forties was raised enough to put them in higher income tax brackets. If western farm incomes were to drop appreciably, with a smaller slice going to the income tax collector, it might change the sentiment toward cover cropping on some farms where it is not now practiced.

THE last two years' experience has cooled off some of the enthusiasm among advocates of cover cropping. In the fall of '47 it was a gold mine with seven dollars an acre the ruling price. The next year presented a peculiar set of climatic conditions. The early summer was normal, but five and one-half inches of rain fell in the last week of July. There was no rain afterward. The newly-sown cover crop got away with a bound. It became infested with aphids which multiplied prodigiously in the rank stand. The swarms of insects drew on the grain more than it could stand in the dry autumn, with the result that cover crops were a general failure. Where 35,000 cattle were fed the previous year, less than 2,000 were fed in 1948. Such crops as were fit for grazing were worth \$10 an acre.

Entomologists said there was nothing alarming about it. The severity of the outbreak was due to the quick succession of intense wet and intense dryness, which is not likely to recur.

The present season also brought disappointment. Ordinarily cover crop in the Claresholm area is not seriously hurt by frost till November. Fact is, along towards the end of October farmers usually commence to pray for heavy frost to check growth. In 1949 they got a damaging frost on September 12 which seriously affected the carrying capacity of cover crops.

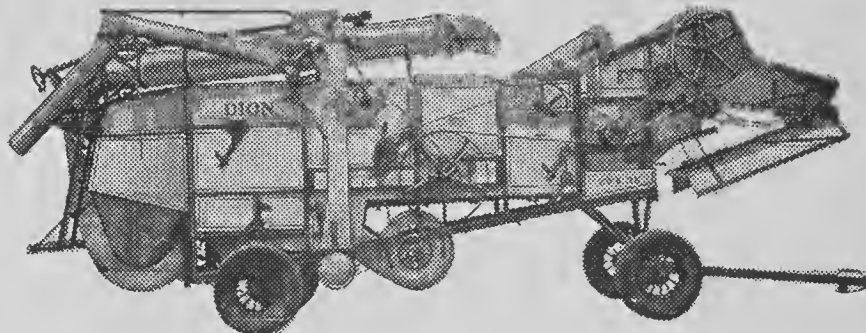
He would be rash who would venture to predict how far this interesting crop practice will spread. Perhaps other limited areas in the west will turn out to have the right combination of soil, climate and proximity to large numbers of unfinished cattle. Perhaps it has already seen its heyday even in its present home. But it goes to show that there is always something new around the corner in agriculture.

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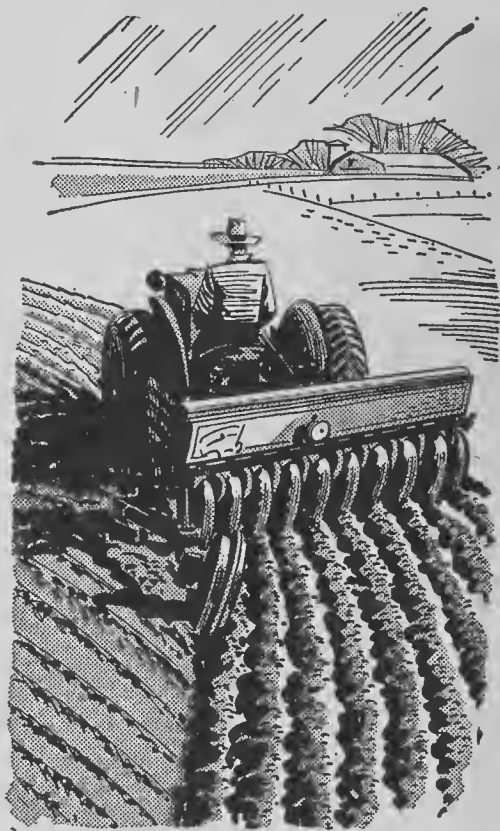
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Care Of Pelts

ON page 56 of your October issue appears an article by B. G. Roberts, "The Proper Care of Pelts." This article will be read by a large number of western Canadians and some of the advice put into practice.

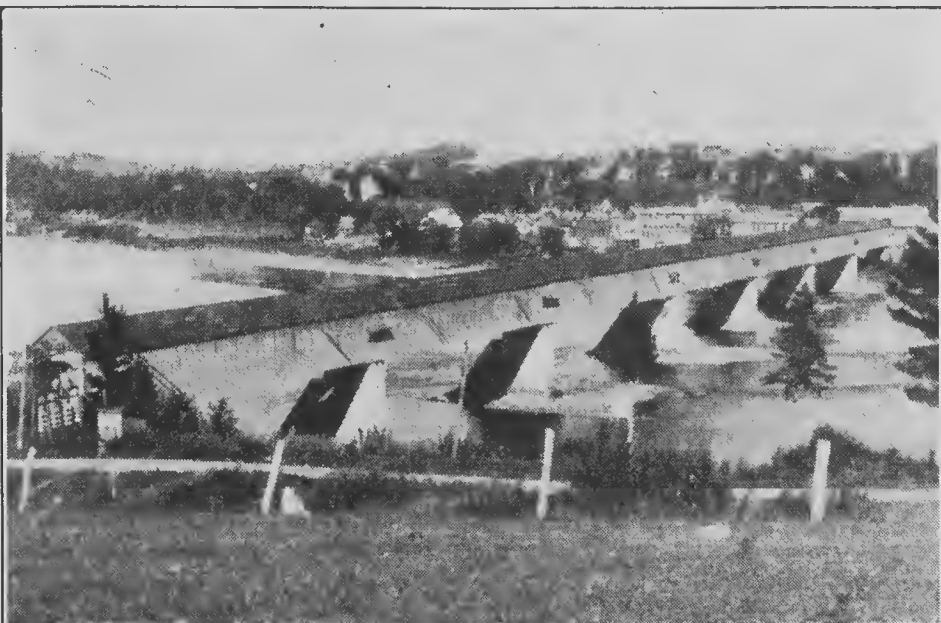
Personally, I find the article misleading and vague on points mentioned. In fact, just enough information to get a novice into trouble.

Mr. Roberts suggests skinning a beaver as he would a bear. Up to a point this is correct. The skin is split along the back of each hind leg to the vent and from the vent to the point of the lower jaw. With a rounded blade skinning knife (not a pocket knife, although it can be used), commence skinning where the incisions come together at the vent and gradually working up the side to the jaw. The front legs are skinned out, leaving a hole where each foot has been pulled through. These holes are later drawn shut by weaving a piece of cord under and over around the hole then drawn shut like a laundry bag. The most important phase of beaver skinning is to flesh the hide as it is being skinned. I have not found or heard of a successful method of removing excess gristly fat after the skinning operation.

Beaver skins can be stretched on a wall, if a wall is handy. The usual method is to lace the hide in a hoop made from a couple of willows, loosely at first then tightened up to shape the pelt. For a neat pelt the stitches should not be more than two inches apart, using heavy cord and a sacking needle.

Mr. Roberts suggests using a sharp knife for fleshing, which is okay. I use a ground down razor but I think a little more information is required. The stretchers shown in the picture are misleading. Even a professional trapper would have difficulty in making time and a good job on such a board. The one-piece stretcher in this country is used for "bone" fleshing. By this method a bone (usually the shin bone of a moose, cut at a 45-degree angle, squared off at the end and notched) is used to "push" excess fat and flesh from the pelt, working from the head toward the tail.

A three-piece stretcher is almost a necessity for speedy knife fleshing. This type of stretcher would resemble



In New Brunswick bridges are roofed in to prevent snow accumulation. This one at Hartland is said to be the longest covered bridge in the world.

Amendments for instructions appearing previously in The Guide

by L. B. WOODCOCK

those shown by Mr. Roberts if sawn down the centre and a little narrower. Wedges in varying sizes to accommodate different sized animals (of one species) and longer than the pelts to be stretched should be on hand. Usually these will vary from four inches wide at the base to one inch at the nose and an inch or so wide at the base to almost a point at the nose.

The green pelt is slipped over the two shaped sections of the stretcher and pulled down tight and the legs tacked, either on the edge or on the belly side of the stretcher. A wedge is then inserted to take up the slack in the pelt. Contrary to Mr. Roberts I drive these wedges well in on coyotes, lynx and timber wolves with a hammer. This makes the skin very tight and easily fleshed. After fleshing the wedge is slightly withdrawn so that the pelt is just barely free from wrinkles.

To flesh, I make a cut, through all excess fat and flesh down to the skin, along the edge of the board from the bottom of the pelt to the top of the shoulder. Starting again at the bottom, hold the knife on a level with the flat of the stretcher and without too much pressure practically shave the excess flesh and fat from the skin, going all around the pelt to where the start was made. This method requires practice and unless a man is going into the fleshing game seriously I'd advise sticking to the bone method. Cuts if any, must be sewn up, otherwise they will leave holes when dried and a damaged pelt.

In this country all pelts with the exception of muskrat, weasel, squirrel and occasionally mink, are marketed fur side out. Buyers are suspicious of unturned pelts. The skin may indicate a prime pelt, but at the same time the fur may be badly damaged by mice or lifting from frozen slush or ice may have torn a lot of fur out. Turning a pelt is where the novice often hits a snag.

When a one-piece stretcher is used it is advisable to insert a piece of board in the form of a wedge between the belly of the pelt and the stretcher. To remove the pelt the wedge is first

pulled out leaving the skin slack enough to be taken off without danger of damage. If, by chance the wedge has been forgotten and the skin becomes tight and dry, place the whole thing outside where frost or moist air will relax the skin enough so that it can be removed.

WHEN to turn a pelt will best be learned by experience. Needless to say it should be dry enough so there is no danger of the skin rotting on the board, yet not dry enough that the hide becomes hard to turn. A good method is to be sure the skin is dry enough then place it out in the frosty air for a few hours. Turn by pushing the nose through the mouth opening and keep working the head into the neck until the whole thing has been pushed through in this manner. Your hide is then turned. Replace on the stretcher and tighten enough to take out all wrinkles then leave to dry thoroughly. A pelt can be turned from the bottom but the head is very hard to turn and there is a good chance of tearing the skin if it's a little too dry.

Mr. Roberts is considerably in error when he says furs cannot be folded. I've folded hundreds and packed them a hundred odd miles by toboggan and packsack without damage. As an example, I packed 20 lynx, two fox and two coyote pelts along with several bundles of mink, weasel and squirrels in a large packsack. The pelt is laid belly down and the front end folded just ahead of the shoulders onto the back, the tail section is then folded over so that the end of the tail just reaches the front fold. A day or two hanging up, and an occasional shaking will bring the pelts back to normal.

Unless Mr. Roberts has some special type of fox stretcher in mind I would not advise putting a green fox skin on a stretcher fur side out. Admittedly I haven't tried it. I wouldn't gamble on a fox pelt either.

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The Country Boy and Girl

Christmas Fun

*It's fun to wash the currants
For Mother's Christmas cake,
It's fun to make some candy,
And help watch the cookies bake.*

*It's fun to hang up holly wreaths,
To watch the mail come in,
It's fun to pluck the turkey,
And not leave one feather in.*

*It's fun to wrap up parcels
With tags and pretty string,
But bringing in the Christmas tree
Is more fun than anything!*

—AUDREY MCKIM.

MARIGOLD

by MARY E. GRANNAN

MARIGOLD was a little yellow kitten. She lived in a little yellow cottage, at the far end of a lane, with Miss Primrose, a little old lady. The old lady loved Marigold, and was very good to her.

Marigold was the only company that Miss Primrose had, and she would say to the kitten each night, as she locked the door of the little yellow cottage, "Marigold, you must take good care of me, and never leave me. If you went away, I'd be very lonely."

Marigold would meow, and promise that she would never leave Miss Primrose, and that she would chase the mice from the yellow cottage, too. Miss Primrose was afraid of mice. Marigold thought this very silly, but she didn't tell Miss Primrose so.

The little old lady went to town, once every week. On her return, she always brought a gift for Marigold. Once it was a ball of yellow yarn, softy and bouncy. Marigold had fun with the ball. Once it was a catnip mouse. Marigold had never smelled anything so lovely. Once it was a little jewelled collar for her neck. Marigold felt like a queen when she wore the collar.

Then one day in December, Miss Primrose was away from the house longer than usual. Marigold worried a little, and went halfway down the lane to meet the little old lady. Miss Primrose laughed when she saw the little cat, but she said, "Bad Marigold! You must not run on the road! Something might happen to you, and then what would I do?"

Marigold meowed that Miss Primrose was late in coming home. "Oh, I know, Marigold," said the little old lady, "but it's Christmas time! I was buying gifts. Everyone gives presents at Christmas time, you know. I bought something nice for you, too."

That night, after Miss Primrose had gone to bed, Marigold sat before the fireplace, thinking. "Christmas is a time to give presents!" she purred, "and I have no present for Miss Primrose. She is so good to me, too. I wonder where you get presents. I know what I'll do. Tomorrow I'll go to the white house at the end of the lane, and ask the little boy who lives there about presents. He'll know."

Marigold then went to sleep. She dreamed of Christmas, and Christmas presents. The next morning, after a fine breakfast of bread and milk, she left the house and ran to the end of the lane. The little boy was building



"I FOUND it today—just the right tree for our Christmas this year," called Dick as he rushed over to Bob's and Molly's place after he finished his evening chores.

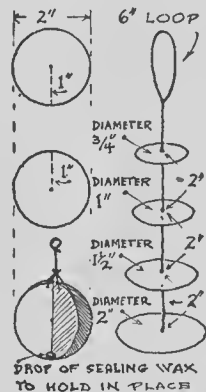
"Hooray!" shouted Bob, "we'll all go out tomorrow and bring it home."

"Let's make the decorations for the tree tonight so they will be ready," said Molly. "I know how to make them. All we need is scissors, string and some colored paper."

"Here are some envelopes with colored linings, some cardboard, and some tinsel paper, I've been saving them for you," said mother.

Molly and Dick cut out circles of all sizes and colors—one and one-half, one and one-quarter, one, and three-quarters of an inch and Bob threaded them on pieces of string twelve inches long tying a knot under each circle and making a big loop at the end of the string to hang it over the branch.

Then Molly cut some two-inch circles from cardboard and cut a slit to the centre of each circle. Bob took two circles and fitted one slit into the other until they met in the centre as you see in the diagram. Then he fastened a string to hang the decoration on the tree. The next afternoon they brought the Christmas tree home. It was a fine little fir tree. "The needles won't fall off so soon on a fir tree," said Bob as the children hung their decorations on the tree. "Merry Christmas to all," sang Bob and Molly and Dick as they joined hands and danced around their pretty Christmas tree.



Ann Sankey

a snowman in the yard. He was surprised to see Marigold, because he knew Miss Primrose never let her go so far from home.

"You're a naughty cat, Marigold, did you know that?" asked the little boy.

"Yes, I know," answered Marigold. "But I've a reason for being naughty. Little boy, how does a person get Christmas gifts?"

The little boy laughed. That was an easy question for him to answer. "You get them from Santa Claus, of course," he said.

"Well I want to get a present for Miss Primrose, so will you please tell me where to see Santa Claus?"

"Oh you can't see him, Marigold. He comes down chimneys, in the houses where children live. There are no children in your house, so he won't be coming down your chimney."

"Oh," said Marigold sadly, and then her little yellow face brightened. "Will he come down your chimney, Tommy?"

"Oh yes," said Tommy. "He's sure to come down our chimney."

"Thank you," said Marigold, and without another word, she left the little boy. Going to the back of his house she climbed a tall elm tree, and leaped from one of its spreading branches, to the roof of the house. She went down the chimney. "It's dark and sooty in here," Marigold said to herself, "but I don't care. I'll wait here until Santa Claus comes, so I can get a gift for Miss Primrose."

The day wore on. Miss Primrose began to worry. She called from the porch, "Marigold . . . Marigold, here kitty, kitty, kitty!"

But Marigold did not come. At nine o'clock Miss Primrose started down the lane, looking for the little cat. She found no sign of her. When she reached the white house at the end of the lane, she went in. Tommy's mother said that she had not seen Marigold. "But Miss Primrose," she went on, "don't you worry. I'll make you a nice

cottage she said, "Marigold, I don't want a gift from you. The happiness that you bring me is the finest gift of all." Marigold purred happily. She was glad that she was back on her own fur rug. Chimneys were such dark and sooty places.

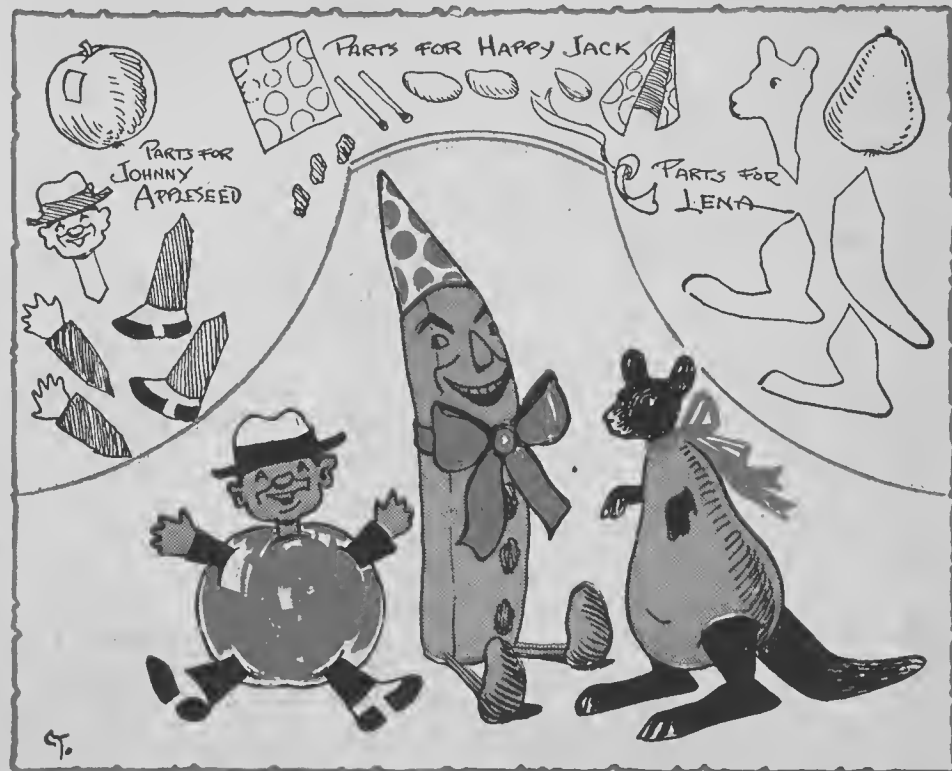
Use For Cards

You can make an attractive desk blotter by cutting a piece of blotting paper the size of a Christmas card. Possibly you have an especially pretty Christmas card left over from last year or may want to make good use of one which you may receive this year. Attach the blotter to the back of the card by punching two small holes in each. Then tie with a colored cord or ribbon. These blotters would make a pretty party favor or a place card.

Holiday Favors

It's the little out-of-the-ordinary touches which make the family Christmas dinner one to be remembered—novel food arrangements, a pleasing combination of china and linen, unusual house decorations, attractive place cards, an entertaining game between courses, a rousing after-dinner singsong all add to the merriment of the occasion. The hostess who plans ahead can manage some extras.

Perhaps this year you will arrange your Christmas fruit with a humorous touch as we have shown in the sketch below. The children would like to share in making this centre piece of Happy Jack, the clown, Johnny Appleseed, and Lena, the kangaroo. Use cardboard or very thin wood to make the head, arms and legs for Johnny Appleseed and Lena. Make them with pointed ends so that they are easy to insert in the fruit, then color them with paints or crayons. For the clown, cut off one end of the banana so that it will stand upright. Paint on the banana skin his eyes and mouth with black ink, use a piece of almond for his nose, two dates on match sticks for his shoes and currants for the buttons on his jacket. His hat is a fancy piece of paper rolled in a cone shape and glued, a fancy ribbon tie completes Happy Jack's costume.—A.T.



THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME
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The Combines Investigation Debate

The McGregor resignation has produced the liveliest parliamentary debate this country has heard for some time. The plain fact emerges that the government broke the law. The report of the combines investigator, alleging improper trade practices, was delivered to the minister of justice on December 29, 1948. The law requires that reports of this nature be published within 15 days of receipt. The government suppressed the report until questions were asked by the opposition on November 2, a delay of ten months.

At best the government is guilty of bungling. At worst it is guilty of concealing allegations of malpractice until the last legal date for commencement of prosecution had passed, and of waiting until the government was safely re-elected before disclosing its own illegal act. The charge of bungling is a fair one. There were extenuating circumstances. The government had good reason for wishing to check certain portions of the report. Mr. McGregor afforded it a good opportunity by making a succession of changes in the text. The last change was not made until February 23 (Hansard, page 2084). Publication in mid-March would have allowed the minister to have made the required check, and he could then have pleaded with better effect the justification he attempted eight months later that he was technically within the law because the report was not complete on December 29. If adjudged guilty in March he could have thrown himself on the mercy of the House and he would have received far different treatment than when he was eventually cornered by opposition questioning.

While Mr. Garson's circumlocutory defense was not very convincing, singularly enough he comes out of it with greater credit than other ministers involved. His effort to treat the House fairly, after the case had been blown wide open, won him good opinions from his assailants, and stands out in contrast to the prime minister's attempt to shut off debate by procedural hocus-pocus, and Mr. Howe's curt treatment of parliament. The huge government majority stood fast and the ministry weathered the storm.

The question of supreme importance in this chain of disclosures is the government's attitude toward combines and agreements in restraint of trade. Mr. McGregor's investigation of the milling industry was begun with the full knowledge and consent of Hon. J. L. Ilsley, then minister of justice. At one stage of the recent controversy Mr. Garson is reported to have protested that the investigation should never have been begun. Has the government changed its attitude on price agreements in the interval?

Every consumer with more than casual knowledge of retail markets knows that the area of trade competition is being steadily narrowed by extension of monopoly. Since the heavy hand of the WPTB was removed, the organization of trade groups to control the market in pursuit of their own selfish ends has been more rapid than the growth of competitive influences. The consumer is becoming the forgotten man of the postwar period. Any general lowering of incomes will leave him in an unenviable position. The detection and destruction of combines pursuing restrictive practices is more important now than ever before. Does the government recognize the need? How vigorously is it prepared to act?

In this respect the closing scenes of the debate were the brightest in the whole unsavory drama. Mr. Garson promised that if the House passed his amendments to strengthen the Combines Investigation Act, his department could proceed with greater assurance and speed in the prosecution of other enquiries now under way. The minister got his amendments. Now the public will discover what zeal he is prepared to bring to the task.

Coarse Grain Prices

At the close of a meeting held in Toronto, November 16, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture issued a public statement from which we quote.

"Owing to the apparent over-all inadequacy of supply of feed grains, the meeting feels that it is in duty bound to draw the attention of the federal and various provincial ministers of agriculture to the situation, with a strong recommendation for some action to make adequate supplies of feed grain available to the livestock industry at prices within reach of livestock feeders."

The recommendation urges two courses of action, one having to do with volume and the other with price. With respect to volume it will be recalled that the whole of the 1948 marketings of coarse grains were used for feed, except for the relatively small but remunerative trade in malting barley, a timely earner of U.S. dollars which nobody in his right senses would think of disturbing. The amount of barley coming on the commercial market this year is estimated at 25 million bushels less than last year. The inference is that some portion at least of this 25 million bushel gap should be filled up. The recommendation does not specify how. If common sense forbids the laying of unholy hands on exportable malting barley, the C.F.A. must have in mind the importation of American corn, or better still, corn from non-dollar sources, so far as practicable. Feed produced from these sources will be relatively expensive. Farmers in the provinces where such feed must be bought will perhaps regret the extent to which they have discontinued to grow coarse grains.

The portion of the recommendation which will arrest attention in the West is the reference to prices. "At prices within reach of feeders" can only be interpreted to mean that some people believe coarse grain prices are now, or likely to become, too high, and that feeders should be protected from loss which will ensue from their purchase and use. The ministers to whom this plea is directed are not told how this loss should be prevented. Feed buyers may have one of two things in their minds. They may want further subsidy. It might take the form of government purchase of coarse grains at market prices, and re-sale to feeders at lower prices, in addition to payment of freight by the treasury as now done. Alternatively the government may be expected to order the Wheat Board to peg coarse grain prices.

Discussions in the East before and since the C.F.A. meeting make it appear that many feeders seriously believe the federal government will entertain such an inequitable proposal as price pegging. It is an old, but nevertheless a vexatious experience to have controls imposed on agriculture which puts it at a disadvantage with the rest of the economy. But it is a new, and even more vicious proposition to damage one farm group for the benefit of another. Eastern feeders, who must have engineered this recommendation through the C.F.A., are endeavoring to insure themselves against loss by unloading part of their costs on feed growers, most of whom happen to live in the West. If supply and demand conditions were to reverse the picture, to give them low feed costs and high on-the-hoof prices, it is a moral certainty that they would accept the latter with alacrity and give scant thought to the plight of the grain grower due to the depressed price of his product. It is to be noted that the recommendation contains no promise to pay more than the market price for coarse grains when the barley-hog ratio is reversed.

Under supply and demand conditions, the livestock business expands and contracts with changing profitability. Feeders now propose to defy economic law with the aid of a subsidy from the pockets of the grain grower. If the government will conveniently order its agent, the Wheat Board, to put the shackles on the grain farmer, the feeder can maintain his level of production whether it is warranted or not. Someone else's ox will tread out his corn. It may be true that livestock production which works like a concertina involves waste. Perhaps something ought to be done about it to support it at the low point of the swing. But it ought to be done by the feeders themselves, or by the govern-

ment if the national interest requires it, and not at the expense of another group which has plenty of inescapable risks of its own.

Canada's Supreme Court

The composition of Canada's Supreme Court is currently attracting deserved attention. If appeals to the Privy Council are to be abolished this body will become the court of last appeal to Canadians. In that circumstance its professional standing should be of the highest.

One of the first requirements is to put an end to political appointments. The constitution of this country provides the government with the most commodious asylum for the faithful to be found anywhere. It should look after all the aging wheel-horses in the top bracket. In any case there can be no excuse for intruding them into such a small body as the Supreme Court, where the presence of even one or two men of second rate ability might have unfortunate and perhaps far reaching consequences.

The lawyers, who know most about it, declare that an increase must be granted in Supreme Court salaries if the nation is to attract the best legal brains. The salaries heretofore paid do not attract men who can make far more money out of private practice. Angus McInnes, C.C.F. member for Vancouver East, protested the proposed salary increases to \$25,000 a year for the chief justice, and \$20,000 a year for the associate judges, on the ground that salaries of this order ought not to be paid when unemployment is growing and thousands of people are accepting a lower standard of living. Regrettable as Mr. McInnes' observed facts may be, it does not answer the question of how to induce men to enter the public service at lower rates of remuneration. Unless his party can bring forward some workable plan for controlling professional fees, the nation will reject his proffered advice.

German Revival

History is being made in Germany at a faster rate than many of us appreciate. That unhappy country is experiencing a sudden revival on both sides of the artificial boundary which cleaves it in two. The Western Allies, recognizing the key position it must hold in an economically healthy Europe, are belatedly fostering industrial rehabilitation by every possible means. Dismantling of factories was stopped and Germans are to have a hand in the control of the Ruhr by an agreement reached last month. On the other side of the line, the Russians, unable to match Allied economic policies, have given the East Germans an army, and German armies are normally the best in Europe, man for man.

There are many disquieting features about this quick and drastic reversal of policy by the antagonists in the cold war. The two halves of Germany are not going to cancel each other out in any resumption of a shooting war. The German people in both eastern and western sectors passionately desire re-union. There are ten million German refugees in the western sector who desire to return to their homes, many of them in territories now held by Poland and Russia. The Russians must be confident that they can smother the seeds of Polish-German hatred, and that the People's army of the eastern sector will be used only for the purpose it was intended, a dagger pointed at the West.

The Western counter measure is to give the sector under their control a more satisfying life and a degree of personal freedom unattainable in Russia's satellite countries. It is a great gamble. The French, invaded three times in a life span by a Germany protesting peaceful intentions and cloaking its sharpened weapons, are genuinely alarmed at the aggressive nationalism that is springing up in the western zone. The old cycle is re-appearing with distressing precision. Dr. Schumacher, head of the Social Democratic party, the one from which moderation might be expected, is beating the drum as no German dared in the early days of the Weimar republic. The big industrialists who served William Hohenzollern and Adolph Hitler so well are coming back into their own. Truly the German problem is a sore test for western diplomacy.